

# LULACnews

May | June 2007



**LULAC Gala Honors President Bill Clinton,  
Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid,  
Congresswoman Hilda Solis  
and Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao**

**LULAC Interview  
with GOP Chairman Mel Martinez**

**On cover:**  
Former President Bill Clinton,  
LULAC National President Rosa  
Rosales, and LULAC Southwest  
Vice President Adrian Rodriguez

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Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

AT&T Foundation awards LULAC \$1.5 million grant. Read article on page 11. (L-R) Brent Wilkes, LULAC National Executive Director; Laura Hernandez, Executive Director, Public Affairs Communications, AT&T; Paul La Schiazza, President, AT&T Wisconsin; Lupita Colmenero, President, National Association of Hispanic Publications; Richard Roybal, LNESc Executive Director; Hector Flores, LULAC Immediate Past President; and Pedro Colon, Wisconsin State Representative.

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# LULACnews

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# A MESSAGE *From the President*



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

Dear LULAC members and friends,

My first year as LULAC National President has gone by very quickly, yet we have accomplished a tremendous amount for our venerable organization thanks to your support. We find ourselves at a critical time for our community, as comprehensive immigration reform is debated in Congress with the hopes and dreams of millions of Latino immigrants hanging in the balance. LULAC has insisted on the passage of fair and just immigration system and we are not willing to accept any bill that compromises our principals and values. We are working closely with our Congressional allies and advocate organizations with the goal of hammering out an immigration comprise that unites families, allows hardworking immigrants already here to earn their way to permanent residence, and allows future workers to immigrate legally to the United States.

As I write, the Senate compromise bill is a radical departure from our current system that is rooted in family and employment-based immigration. If enacted, the temporary worker provision alone would create a new underclass of easily exploited workers who would be forbidden from realizing the American Dream. This bill will dehumanize workers, short-change employers and lead to wide-spread undocumented immigration as many workers inevitably overstay their visas rather than return home.

The League of United Latin American Citizens National Board of Directors has voted unanimously to oppose the Senate immigration compromise finding the bill unacceptable in its current form. The LULAC Board cited the imposition of a temporary worker program without a meaningful pathway to permanent legal residence, the elimination of four out of five family-based green card categories, and the implementation of an untested “merit-based” point system in place of our current employment-based immigration system as unacceptable components of the proposal.

While the Senate compromise does provide a chance for undocumented workers to earn permanent residence and includes the DREAM Act and AgJOBS, the bill falls woefully short at reuniting families and fixing our broken immigration system with a legal pathway for future immigrant workers.

LULAC is working hard to address these shortcomings in the current and ensure the passage of a workable compromise that we can feel good about supporting.

While immigration is currently our top priority, we are working with the administration and Congress on a number of important issues impacting our community including access to affordable healthcare, housing, education and the under-representation of Hispanics in the federal government. We will be holding town hall meetings, press conferences and webinars throughout the country to engage Latinos on these important issues and we encourage you to participate.

As your National President I have been working hard to grow our organization and attract new financial resources for our national office, LNESc and the various LULAC commissions. I am also working to create leadership development programs for our youth and adult members and I am developing new strategies to grow our membership. The LULAC National Board is working hard on a five-year strategic plan that will ensure that LULAC continues to serve LULAC the Latino community in the most effective way possible.

I also want to invite all of our members to participate in our upcoming LULAC National Convention in Chicago , IL . We have already confirmed several cabinet secretaries and Presidential candidates and we expect a tremendous turnout. I hope to see all of you in Chicago , IL for this important event that promises to inspire and energize our organization to new heights.

See you all there!

Sincerely,

Rosa Rosales

National LULAC President



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

(L-R) Texas Governor Rick Perry, LULAC National President Rosa Rosales, AT&T External Affairs Director Bob Garza, Texas State Representative Rafael Anchia.



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

Texas LULAC Youth and Young Adults Leadership graduation class in March 2007.



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

(L-R) Convention Co-Chair Blanca Vargas, LULAC National President Rosa Rosales and Convention Co-Chair Darryl D. Morin.



(L-R) Leni Gonzalez, State Director, Virginia, Candido Morales, Chairman, Institute for Mexicans Abroad, LULAC National President Rosa Rosales and Special Assistant to the President Elia Mendoza.

# Senator Mel Martinez

By Lizette Jenness Olmos and Kenneth Dalecki

Washington, D.C.—Sen. Mel Martinez, tapped by President Bush to be General Chairman of the Republican National Committee, told LULAC News in an interview at RNC headquarters that he will use his new position “to advance issues and ideas important to the Hispanic community.”

The Florida Senator is the first Hispanic to chair a major political party. Martinez’ selection was criticized by some conservative Republicans because of his support for immigration reform legislation that would include measures leading to citizenship for some immigrants now in the country illegally. Nevertheless, he was elected to the position by the RNC in January.

Martinez said his election “makes clear to Hispanics that the Republican Party wants them.” He told LULAC News that he intends to expand the party’s outreach to Hispanics by promoting such issues as quality education, economic opportunity and small business entrepreneurship and a family-friendly agenda that is not afraid to talk about the importance of faith.

He said his efforts to promote the GOP cause will include speaking at the conventions of Hispanic organizations. Martinez is the only immigrant in the U.S. Senate and speaks fluent Spanish. He came to the U.S. from Cuba when he was 15.

Martinez lamented the fact that Hispanics are less active politically than most other groups in the U.S. They are less likely to vote or seek office than Americans in general. He attributed the lower Hispanic participation rate to the fact that many Hispanic Americans come from countries where political participation is relatively low.

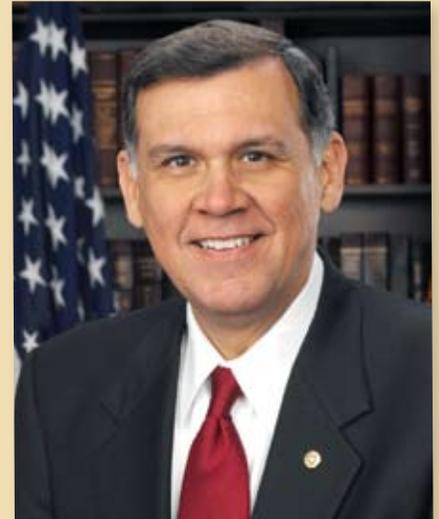
The party

chairman said he will push the Bush Administration to select more “good, well-qualified Hispanics” to appointive positions, including the Supreme Court should another opening occur during President Bush’s remaining months in office.

Martinez conceded that immigration is a hot-button issue, but he said that is true for Democrats as well as Republicans. He noted that “immigration reform was not one of the top 10 agenda items” for the Democratic majority that took control of the House and Senate in January. “I was bitterly disappointed with that,” he said.

Martinez predicted that Congress will send President Bush an immigration reform bill before it begins its summer recess in August. He said the legislation will include a guest worker program, beefed-up border security, a tamper-proof identification card and new measures to provide legal status for millions of undocumented immigrants.

The position of general chairman of the RNC is not new but it is not a permanent party post. Martinez noted



that Robert Dole and Paul Laxalt were U.S. Senators who also served as general chairmen. He said the party often creates the position when it needs to broaden its appeal. Robert M. (Mike) Duncan is RNC chairman and responsible for day-to-day operation of the party while Martinez acts as the public face of the party.



Senator Mel Martinez speaking to LULAC members.

Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

# PRESIDENT CLINTON HEADLINES 10TH ANNUAL LULAC LEGISLATIVE AWARDS GALA

Story by Lizette Jenness Olmos and Kenneth Dalecki. Photos by Luis Nuño Briones

Washington, D.C. – LULAC honored former President Bill Clinton, Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Rep. Hilda Solis at its 10th Annual National Legislative Awards Gala on Feb. 27.

LULAC President Rosa Rosales presented the LULAC President’s Award to President Clinton before an overflow crowd in the ballroom of the J. Willard Marriott Hotel, two blocks east of the White House. In a not-so-veiled reference to his wife Hillary’s bid for the presidency, Clinton told LULAC President Rosales that “I kind of like

other issues of importance to Hispanics. He commended LULAC for its programs to educate Hispanic consumers on money management and auto purchasing. He also decried the exorbitant interest charged by companies that make so-called “instant refund loans” on federal tax returns. Such loans often target low-income taxpayers and carry interest charges as high as 2000%.

The President, who posed for numerous photos with LULAC members, was a star at LULAC’s 2006 National Convention in Little Rock, Ark., where he was the featured speaker at the LULAC Presidential Banquet. Clinton was instrumental in LULAC’s decision to hold its convention in his home state.

“LULAC is a first-class organization with first-class leadership,” Sen. Reid, D-Nev., said after accepting his award. He promised to work with LULAC President Rosales “to advance the causes of the Latino community.” He said comprehensive immigration reform is one of his top-10 legislative priorities. “With tough and smart reforms, we can secure our borders, crack down on enforcement and lay out a path to earned legalization for undocumented immigrants,” Reid said.

Secretary Chao cited LULAC’s cooperation with her department on such issues as labor force education, job safety, wage and hour law enforcement and Gulf Coast hurricane recovery. “Government cannot do it all, and that is why it forges partnerships with community organizations such as LULAC,” Chao said after receiving her award. She cited



Kathryn C. Brown, Senior Vice President, Public Policy Development & Corporate Responsibility, Verizon Communications with LULAC National President Rosa Rosales and VP for the Southeast Adrian Rodriguez present the LULAC Presidential award to President Bill Clinton.

LULAC President Rosales and LULAC Executive Director Brent Wilkes for their participation in the fourth annual Opportunity Conference in Philadelphia last October. LULAC and the Labor Department were cosponsors of the conference.



LULAC National President Rosa Rosales and Executive Vice President of the Comcast Corporation David L. Cohen present Congresswoman Hilda Solis with the LULAC Profile and Courage Award.

organizations with women presidents.”

In his acceptance remarks, the former President said Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., has opposed cuts in the Community Reinvestment Act, which promotes loans in low-income communities, and supports



VP for the Northeast Maria Rodriguez Salazar and LULAC President Rosa Rosales present the National Legislative Award to the Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao.

Rep. Solis, D-Calif., received LULAC’s National Profile in Courage Award for her leadership in efforts to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities and for leadership on women’s rights. She took a leading role in renewing the Violence Against Women Act in 2006 and authored legislation to address the murders of women in Mexico and Guatemala. “It is an honor to be



(L-R) Ziad Ojakli, Group VP of Government Affairs and Community Relations Ford Motor Company, VP for the Farwest Dave Rodriguez present the National Legislative Award to the Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

Continued on page 11

*Midwest Corner*

## Rosa Torres Caskey Gets Justice Award



Activist Rosa Torres Caskey was honored at the Access to Justice Awards on May 1, 2007 for her efforts on behalf of the Miami Valley's Hispanic community. Ms. Caskey, a Xenia resident, currently serves as president of the Dayton council of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). Ms. Caskey is employed as the Coordinator of Volunteer Services at the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center in Wilberforce.

This will be the second year for the Access to Justice Awards, presented by Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc., (ABLE), Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc., (LAWO), and the Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP). The awards recognized Miami Valley residents who devoted significant professional and personal time to causes of social justice.

"I am really honored with this nomination," said Ms. Caskey, "but I don't do this work for the awards or the recognition. I do it as a public service. It's important to me to make sure that the voices of the voiceless are heard. There are so many people who won't come forward...and all we have to do is speak up for them."

Rosa Caskey received the Community Advocacy Award for her work with LULAC, the nation's oldest and largest Hispanic organization. Currently serving as both President of LULAC's Dayton council and Director of LULAC Ohio, Rosa was instrumental in establishing LULAC councils in Dayton, Columbus, Cincinnati, Lima and Toledo.

Caskey joined Dayton attorney Susan Brasier and Preble county businesswoman Mary Bullen on the awards podium during the event, held at Sinclair Community College's Ponitz Center May 1st. Brasier was recognized for her work on behalf of domestic violence victims, and Bullen for her efforts to encourage affordable housing development in Preble County.

LULAC councils provide more than a million dollars in scholarships to Hispanic students each year, conduct citizenship and voter registration drives, develop low income housing units, conduct youth leadership training programs, and seek to empower the Hispanic community at the local, state and national level.

As LULAC's Dayton council's president, Rosa has advocated for the rights of Hispanic residents before a number of legislative bodies, including the Dayton City Commission and the city council of Yellow Springs. In addition to launching a scholarship program for Dayton-area Hispanic students, Rosa helped create a partnership between SBC, the East End Community Center, and Linden Avenue Baptist Church to create and staff a computer lab, providing Spanish-language computers that allow users to conduct online job searches, take English classes, computer classes, and visit Spanish-language Web sites in their home countries.

"Rosa's advocacy accomplishments are many," said her nominator, Carolina Silva. "What is remarkable is that they have all been achieved on a volunteer basis...and this advocacy even extends into her personal faith, where she served as the first Hispanic Elder in her congregation at Memorial United Presbyterian Church." Ms. Caskey also served as chair of Hispanic Ministries at Miami Presbytery, and was the Hispanic Moderator of the Cabinet of Ethnic Church Affairs for the Synod of the Covenant.

Legal Aid of Western Ohio, along with its affiliate law firm Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, work with the Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project to provide no-cost legal help to low-income Miami Valley residents in civil cases such as domestic violence, elder abuse, immigration issues, housing issues and consumer protection.

ABLE and LAWO are 501 (c) (3) non-profit organizations funded in part with support from generous individuals and charitable organizations in the Miami Valley.

*Farwest Corner*

## Border Directors Meet in Arizona

The LULAC Border Directors Coalition met in Tucson, AZ on March 23rd & 24th to discuss border issues. The two day meeting included workshops on Health, Education and Immigration Reform. The Border Directors pledged to support each other with issues of interest along the border.



Seated (L-R) Roger Rocha (TX St. Dir.), Pablo Martinez (NM St. Dir.), Angel Luevano (CA St. Dir.), Connie Martinez (AZ Deputy St. Dir.) and Adrian Rodriguez (Southwest Vice President). Back row - participants.

## LULAC Supports Salvation Army Literacy Program

Illinois' Elgin-area LULAC Council 5236 has donated \$3,000 to the Salvation Army Latino Literacy Project, an educational program made available through the Mexican consulate.



A ceremonial check was presented by Jo Ann Armenta, president of Council 5236, to Maj. Ken Nicolai, director of the local Salvation Army and a LULAC member, during a council meeting Jan. 17 in Elgin. The funds support a six-month program to help adults learn to read and



write in Spanish as a first step toward learning to read and write in English.

LULAC and the Salvation Army have had a strong partnership in this project since initial planning in November 2005. Experimental classes started in June 2006. The test went so well that the Salvation Army made it a permanent service to the Latino community. Hispanics make up about 40% of Elgin's population of 100,000.

In addition to the \$3,000 donation, many LULAC members have donated equipment and supplies and many volunteer hours to help make this project a success.

## Northeast Corner

## LULAC Sweetheart Scholarship Gala 2007

Dedham, MA - LULAC Council #12113 is targeting Hispanics in Massachusetts by helping them develop self-esteem, encouraging them to stay in school, affirm the positive aspects of Hispanic culture and breakdown the conditions which lead to unfair stereotyping and cycles of poverty.

They have established a scholarship fund to assist Hispanic students from Massachusetts' schools who are furthering their education.

To date council 12113 has offered over \$100,000 in scholarships.

"There is still a great need for more and better opportunities and we believe that together we will make the difference in improving the quality of life of our growing community" said Regla Gonzalez.

For Scholarship application log in: [www.LULACBoston.org](http://www.LULACBoston.org) or contact Regla Gonzalez at (617) 327-6760.



## Newark High School Students Get Lesson on Hispanic Culture

A presentation for high school freshman at the Newark American History High-School was held in Newark, N.J. The presentation included the history, mission and overview of LULAC and other related facts pertaining to the Hispanic community, information regarding Black History Month and closed with a career and higher education open discussion. The Newark American History High School is in its first year, and if successful will become permanent within the next couple of years. The presentation addressed several key points that have been outlined in the new school's curriculum, such as Latino history, community and social services, career education, etc.

The panelists included: (L-R) Eltia I Montano-Galarza, Council Member; Gerson Martinez; Luis Alvarado; and Sandra Kindly.

Ernesto Sanchez, Council Member (not pictured) also joined and assisted with handouts and audio/visual. Ms. Ingrid Betancourt (Newark Public Library) made a contribution in the form of a fun-fact "Hispanic Quiz" that was included in the presentation to the students.



Newark American History High School students.

### LULAC Council 402's Scholarship Gala

LULAC Council 402's Scholarship Gala Committee is extremely honored for having received several kind and complimentary reviews from guests who attended the Feb. 12th Annual Scholarship Fundraising Gala held at the Wortham Center in Houston. Many of Houston's community



(L-R) Evangelina Vigil-Pinon, ABC 13 Public Affairs Director and Mistress of Ceremonies, Edward Ybarra, LULAC Council 402 President, Marvin Zindler, Honoree and Mary Almendarez, Scholarship Chair and 1st Vice President LULAC Council 402 awarding Mr. Zindler with the Man of the Year Award.

The participation by our much-appreciated Sponsors, allowed the Scholarship Committee to raise over \$58,000 (including in-kind and not including expenses).

Council 402 is proud to report that aggressive fund-raising commenced in 2002 when the council awarded \$5,000 to 11 students and increased the amount every year with LNESc's help. Thanks to the partnership with LNESc, the council for the third year was able to "max" its contribution and will be able to



(L-R) Edward Ybarra, LULAC Council 402 President, County Commissioner Sylvia Garcia, Honoree Elma Barrera, former ABC 13 Eyewitness News Reporter receiving Woman of the Year Award.

award scholarships in the amount of \$30,000 this summer. In addition, the Scholarship Awards Committee looks forward to awarding more scholarships later this year for a total of \$55,000 in scholarships in 2007. The committee welcomes other organizations in partnering to deliver matching funds to students seeking a higher education.

Particular thanks are extended to a dynamic member, Andreina Kepfer, for her persistent and results-oriented contributions and all other committee members, including LULAC Council 402 President, Edward Ybarra.

leaders took time to join in the festivities, including Houston Council Members (and Council 402 Members) Adrian Garcia and Peter Brown. A special shrimp and steak dinner was enjoyed by 560 guests.

### The LULAC Women's Conference Helps Empowered Latinas

LULAC held its annual National Women's Conference March 30 – 31 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Miami. Among those welcoming attendees was Miami Mayor Manny Diaz.

The keynote speaker at the Women's Recognition Luncheon on Saturday was Bettina Rodriguez Aguilera, president of Bettra Inc., a Miami-based management consulting firm that has helped start more than 600 small businesses and assisted companies in receiving more than \$7 million in loans and grants.



(L-R) Vice President for Women Margeret Moran, Sonia Green with General Motors and Maria Laria.

Other speakers included Nancy Allen, President and CEO of the Women's Business Development Center, which is the Florida affiliate of the Washington, D.C.-based Women's Business Enterprise National Council, and Nickie Valdez, Vice President of SERCO, an employment services firm based in Irving, Texas. Also speaking at the luncheon was LULAC National President Rosa Sales and LULAC National Vice President for Women Margaret Moran.



Regla Gonzalez Moderated Human Rights Panel.

"As the world changes, Latinas must remain focused and ready to meet the challenges that confront us," said Vice President Moran. "Preparedness in education, economics and health and engaging our children in this learning process is of utmost importance. Latinas must continue to learn and network for the benefit of themselves, their families and their communities."

A primary aim of the Women's Conference was to enhance Latinas' leadership abilities. The conference theme "knowledge that nurtures" and the program are designed to provide exactly that for attendees. Programs included workshops and inspirational speeches to help Latinas become leaders in their communities.

The conference began Friday evening with an opening reception. Saturday morning workshops covered human rights, health and economic issues of special concern to Latinas.



LULAC Women's Commission and Sponsors.

# 2007 LULAC NATIONAL CONVENTION RULES

1. Only delegates, or alternates replacing a delegate, wearing their certified badges, will be allowed in the voting section. All other persons shall be seated in an observation area designated by the Credentials Committee. The only exception to this rule shall be to accommodate a physically challenged delegate or alternate who desires to be seated in a special area.
2. A member in good standing has the right to ask that non-members be removed from the election area. This shall include the news media.
3. An Election Judge shall be appointed by the National President to conduct the elections.
4. The Election Judge shall appoint a Time Keeper and three Official Counters for all elections.
5. Elections shall be by stand up, show of hands, or roll call vote. The head of each delegation shall announce his/her council's vote and the Election Judge shall repeat the vote to the floor.
6. No delegate or alternate may have more than one vote in any one election.
7. Voting in absentia shall not be allowed.
8. A candidate not previously announced, as per the LULAC National Constitution, may run from the floor provided that a written certification endorsement by the total accredited delegations of a minimum of five councils, including the candidate's home council, is made to the Election Judge prior to the time of nominations for the office in question.
9. Each candidate has the right to appoint one counter. However, the only official count for any election shall be that recorded by the three Official Counters.
10. Each candidate shall have five minutes for speeches which shall follow the closure of nominations for the office in question.
11. In elections in which more than two candidates are involved, and no one receives 50 percent plus 1 majority of the certified votes, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall immediately go into a runoff. No speeches shall be allowed in runoff elections.
12. Challenges to any election must be issued to the National Legal Advisor immediately after the outcome is announced and before another election has begun. It shall take a two-thirds vote to overturn any ruling made by the National Legal Advisor.
13. The order of elections shall be as follows and will be conducted after resolutions/amendments are voted on.
  - National President
  - Southwest VP                      • Southeast VP
  - Northwest VP                      • Northeast VP
  - Farwest VP                          • Midwest VP
  - VP for the Elderly                  • VP for Women
  - VP for Young Adults                  • VP for Youth
  - Treasurer                              • 2010 Convention Site
14. First reading of all Constitutional Amendments and Resolutions will be presented immediately after the Assembly is convened.
15. The presentation of Constitutional Amendments from the floor shall not be allowed. Discussion on Constitutional Amendments shall be limited to three speakers for and three speakers against with each speaker having two minutes.
16. All resolutions must be type written and submitted in the form provided for in the LULAC website and submitted by a local council in good standing. Approved State resolutions must be submitted to the National Office within five days of passage. The Resolutions Committee shall read the resolved portion of each resolution and make its recommendation to the assembly. Discussion on each resolution shall be limited to two speakers for and two speakers against with each speaker having two minutes. A speaker must announce if he/she is speaking in favor of or against the resolution in question.
17. Resolutions from the floor shall be accepted. The resolution from the floor must be type written and submitted by using the form provided in the LULAC website and signed by the total registered delegation of the offering council. The written resolution from the floor must be presented to the Resolutions Committee and the State Director or his/her designee be notified. The Resolution Committee Chair shall read the resolution in its entirety and call for a vote. The same time limit, number of speakers, and announcement as in rule 16 shall apply to this rule.
18. Any issue not covered by these Convention Rules will be determined by the proper provisions within the LULAC National Constitution, By-Laws & Protocol, and Robert's Rules of Order (revised), in that order.
19. These adopted 2007 Convention Rules may be changed by a two-thirds vote of the assembly.
20. Delegates, alternates and guests must maintain proper decorum at all times. Whistles are not allowed. Individuals intentionally disrupting election proceedings as determined by the Convention Chair will be expelled from the floor.
21. Anyone who uses profanity, verbally threatens or attacks another member on or near the voting floor may be removed from the voting floor and charges to expel the member for "actions contrary to the principles of LULAC" may be brought against the member by the presiding officer at the next National or Executive Board meeting.

## LULAC Convention Tackles Pertinent Issues in North Texas

By Shaina Zucker  
North Texas Daily Intern

The North Texas LULAC District 3 held its annual convention on Saturday April 21st in the Radisson Hotel. The convention was



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

(Standing) Richard Sambrano with the U.S. Justice Department giving a workshop.

hosted by Collin County College LULAC Young Adult Council #4780, North Texas LULAC District 3 Executive Board.

“We try to move our convention around the district,” said Coty Rodriguez Anderson, North Texas LULAC District III Director. “For example, one year we had it on South Fork Ranch and another we had it in Plano. We try to accommodate as many as we can.”

The events kicked off with a continental breakfast that began at 7:30 a.m. Exhibit tables of organizations such as colleges and other programs were set up soon after the breakfast.

“The event was put into the newspaper,” said Rodriguez Anderson, “Most people who are here are LULAC members and officers of different councils. However, we welcomed anyone who would like to come.”

Many workshops were given to help attendees better understand such things as issues with immigration and higher education. These workshops were presented by LULAC National Housing office, Dallas County Community College District Board of Trustees, Hispanic Women’s Network of Texas and many others.

“The purpose of the convention is to provide information on issues we are working on,” said Rodriguez Anderson. “Some of those issues are immigration, education, health, civil rights, etc.”

The candidates running for Dallas Mayor,

Texas Representative Rafael Anchia, and Royce West, Texas Senator of District 23 were some of the special guests that attended the convention. Senator West gave a speech at the Unity Luncheon and Awards Ceremony explaining the status of the University of North Texas at Dallas and informed attendees of the status of anti-immigration bills that have been filed in Austin. Dr. Elba Garcia, City of Dallas Deputy Mayor Pro-Tem also gave a speech and presented LULAC awards to members.

Another important figure who came to the convention was Roger Rocha, LULAC Texas state director.

“My job is to oversee the State of Texas with LULAC matters,” said Rocha. “At the same time I have to coordinate the matters with Austin. We tackle issues such as major civil rights abuses and other things that impact the Hispanic community, such as immigration issues.”

Immigration is presently a hot topic in Austin as well as Washington and many politicians are trying to put into place stricter immigration laws. Rocha said that he is not concerned with what they are trying to do.

“Immigration is a federal responsibility,” said Rocha. “The state is trying to pass all of these bills as laws but it is not their



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

(L-R) LULAC District 3 Director Coty Rodriguez, Shaina Zucker, Texas Senator Royce West.

responsibility. Rick Perry, Texas governor, has been very supportive of LULAC and our causes.”

The convention concluded with a business meeting to elect a new board for Texas LULAC District 3.

“LULAC will remain vigilant,” said Rocha. “We will continue to make sure that things aren’t snuck under the wire. LULAC welcomes opportunities and challenges.”

## LULAC Supports Efforts by America’s Second Harvest

More than 25 million Americans have experienced hunger in the past year, according to America’s Second Harvest, the nation’s largest supplier of food to hungry Americans. Some 36% of the households



served by America’s Second Harvest include at least one employed adult. And 17% of those served are Latino.

LULAC supports efforts by America’s Second Harvest to combat hunger in the U.S. and urges LULAC members to volunteer at local food banks. You can find the food bank in your community by visiting America’s Second Harvest Web site at [www.secondharvest.org](http://www.secondharvest.org).



The country’s approach to food assistance will be affected this year by Congress when it takes up the 2007 Farm Bill. The bill reauthorizes school lunch and breakfast programs, food stamps and the Emergency Food Assistance Program, an effort that feeds millions of families while providing more than \$450 million in farm income support.

## AT&T Expands Tech-Access Program

By Lizette Jenness Olmos

The AT&T Foundation, the philanthropic arm of AT&T Inc., will unveil 32 new community technology centers around the country as part of AT&T AccessAll, a three-year, \$100 million philanthropic initiative to provide technology access to underserved communities.

The new centers, which are being launched in conjunction with LULAC, will be stocked with computer equipment, personnel support, high-speed Internet service and videoconferencing. They will complement 23 existing centers already established under the grant program, according to LULAC National President Rosa Rosales.



Photo by Luis Nuriño Briones

(L-R) AT&T representatives with former LULAC President Hector Flores, Executive Director Brent Wilkes, LULAC National President Rosa Rosales, Ray Velarde, VP for the Youth Javier Montanez and LNEsc Executive Director Richard Roybal.

“More than 55,000 Latinos received access and instruction on computer technology through AT&T’s support in 2004, and we expect this new grant to more than double the number of people we can help,” she said.

The new centers will be located in 28 different communities around the country, including one each in Laredo, El Paso and Abilene .

The centers are designed to serve low-income and/or first-generation Hispanic-American youth and adults. According to a new study by the Pew Hispanic Center, 53 percent of Hispanics who are not online say this is because they do not have access. The AT&T grant program is aimed at combating these inequities by giving Hispanics the necessary skills, and access, to compete in today’s technology-driven workplaces.

“In today’s digital world, the impact of connecting underserved communities with technology resources is immeasurable as we look at economic mobility,” said Sonya Medina, director of the AT&T Foundation. “Our support for the Empower Hispanic America with Technology initiative reflects AT&T’s commitment to strengthening education and community development opportunities through technology.”

Since 1996, the AT&T Foundation has contributed more than \$40 million in grants to organizations serving Hispanic communities across the country. San Antonio-based AT&T (NYSE: T) is a global communications holding company.

## LEGISLATIVE AWARDS GALA

Continued from page 5

recognized by LULAC, an organization that has been a trailblazer for the Latino community for 78 years,” Solis said. “LULAC has a long and distinguished history of protecting the rights of Latinos around the nation.”

The Legislative Awards recognize individuals who have provided exceptional

support on issues of importance to the Latino community. Attendees included members of Congress, ambassadors, federal officials and Hispanic leaders.

“We were deeply honored that these four leaders accepted our invitation to be recognized for their work on behalf of the Hispanic community,” said President Rosales. “The honorees were recognized for their work on disaster relief, economic empowerment, immigration, health care and civil rights—five key issues that have had a tremendous impact on the Hispanic community.”

Armando Guzman, a veteran newsman with Azteca America and TV Azteca, served as the master of ceremonies. Major sponsors were Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Verizon Communications, the Altria Group and Univision Communications.



Congressional Hispanic Caucus Chair Congressman Rep. Joe Baca, D-Calif. addresses the LULAC National Legislative Gala.



U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., addresses the LULAC National Legislative Gala.



U.S. Rep. Ciro Rodriguez, D-Texas, was the keynote luncheon speaker at the LULAC/MALDEF Policy Summit.

## ETS Report Cites Challenges To Boosting U.S. Job Skills

By Kenneth Dalecki

Washington, D.C. – A newly released report from the nation’s top student testing organization highlights the need to devote greater local, state, federal and private efforts toward improving education in the U.S.

Many of the problems cited in the report

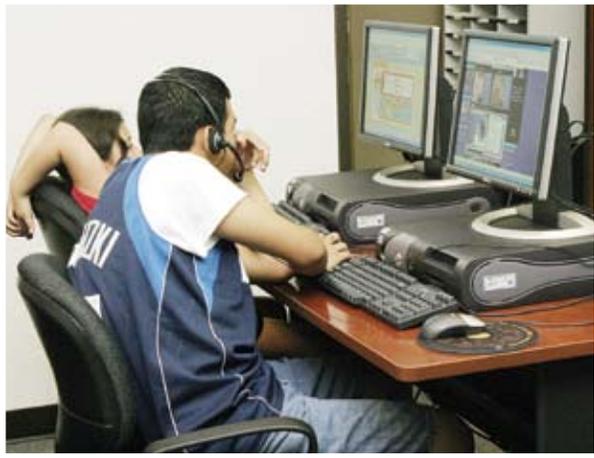


Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

deal with issues being addressed by LULAC and LULAC’s education arm, LULAC National Educational Service Centers (LNEC).

The report says immigration, particularly the increasing number of immigrants from Mexico and Central America, will be a major contributor to a literacy challenge facing the U.S. The study, titled “America’s Perfect Storm: Three Forces Changing Our Nation’s Future,” was prepared by ETS (Educational Testing Service). It warns that without corrective action the U.S. faces “greater inequity in wages and wealth, and increasing social and political polarization.”

ETS cites three forces contributing to polarization: Demographic trends, a growing disparity in literacy and math skills and the widening gap in the wages of skilled versus unskilled workers.

The report cites the nation’s relatively low high school graduation rate, which has slipped to about 70% overall (53% for

Hispanics) from a peak of 77% in 1969. Meanwhile government forecasts project that 90% of the nation’s future jobs will be in careers that require some post-high school education. Government statistics also show a widening income gap between workers who are high school graduates and those without high school diplomas.

The study divided literacy proficiency into five levels ranging from very low to very high. Being in the third level is deemed the minimum necessary to compete in today’s job market. Only 17% of Hispanics fell into the third level or higher in a 2005 survey of adults (32% of native Hispanics and 6% of non-native Hispanics). That compares with 48% of adults as a whole. ETS says current trends point to lower levels of language and math proficiency in the future if nothing is done to address the problem.

Test scores in literacy and math continue to decline despite efforts to improve schools, the report notes. One study participant said the nation’s schools must be held to higher standards and that increased funding alone is not the answer to boosting student achievement. ETS officials said the nonprofit institution, which administers college entrance and high school equivalency tests, will make recommendations to address these problems. The full report is available without charge at [www.ets.org/stormreport](http://www.ets.org/stormreport).

Programs sponsored by LULAC and LNEC are already addressing challenges cited in the report, including LNEC’s Young Readers program, the LULAC National Scholarship Fund, Science Corps, Community Technology Centers and leadership, college access and financial services programs.

## Highlights of LULAC/Community Prosperity Partnerships

By Lizette Jenness Olmos

The LULAC San Antonio chapter invites you to participate in the second annual event of LULAC partnership with the Community Prosperity Partnership (CPP), ASPIRA, American GI Forum to be held at the El Tropicano Hotel – Riverwalk from Aug. 23-25 at 110 Lexington Ave., San Antonio. For more information call (210) 223-9461 .



Representatives of CPP and LULAC

It convenes national leaders, LULAC members, Veterans Affairs, federal and local government agencies and private sectors. This summit will discuss the issues, set policy, and bring to the tables actual solutions to help the Hispanic American veterans. The summit will provide information and tools to help our veterans and their families to be integrating with our community.

Reach out to Hispanic Americans veterans and their families who have served us. Sponsoring the summit fair gives you the opportunity to showcase those services that you provide, and recruit Hispanic veterans.

Last year’s first CPP was very successful. The conference drew thousands of participants.

## LULAC/FTI Chicago Youth-Collegiate Federal Career Forum and Recruitment Workshops

By Javier Montanez, National LULAC Vice President for the Youth

LULAC invites you to participate in our 78th National Convention & Exposition:

and career counselors with an in-depth, informative, and interactive session on topics

Why Work for the Federal Government  
 Federal Employment Application Process and Special Appointing Authorities  
 Student Education Employment Program, Federal Internship Opportunities, Workforce Recruitment Program for College Students with Disabilities  
 Senate and Congressional Employment Opportunities in Illinois  
 CSI: Forensic Science  
 Aviation & Aeronautics  
 Exhibition Hall Tour

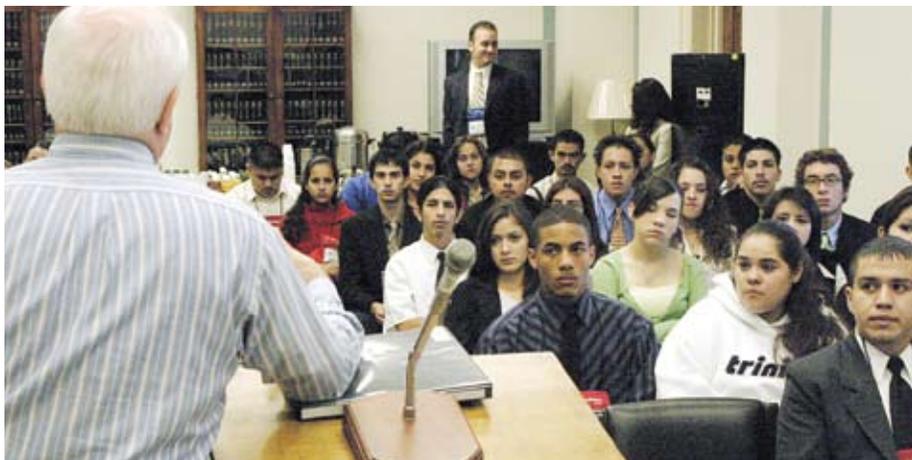


Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

Empowering Latinos: Building Prosperity through Partnerships in Chicago, Illinois, July 9-14.

The Chicago Youth-Collegiate Federal Career Forum and Recruitment Workshops:

such as special appointing authorities, job qualifications, and benefits. The Navy Pier. Free admission.

**Exposition, Career & College Fair:**

Over 400 companies, federal agencies, and colleges showcase job opportunities and services. Bring your résumés and be ready to interview, as appropriate. Free admission.

**Make History:** Join



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

Workshops are scheduled from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. on federal and military career opportunities for middle, high school, college and university students, career counselors and parents. Online and hands-on demonstrations on student programs, scholarships, and internships will be available to participants.

Federal and military representatives will provide parents, administrators, faculty,

LULAC as we celebrate 78 years of service to the Latino community and set our agenda for the future!

**Program Agenda:**



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

**Conference Headquarters:**

Hyatt Regency Chicago  
 Chicago, Ill.  
 To get more info go to [www.lulac.org](http://www.lulac.org)



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

# PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE LEAGUE

Photos by Luis Nuño Briones



Convention Co-Chair Blanca Vargas, LULAC Federal Relations Director Emma Moreno and Ida L. Castro VP Sponsorship, Development, Government Relations V-me Media, Inc,



LULAC General Counsel Luis Roberto Vera with brother Sergio.



Former LULAC President Hector Flores shares a thought with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.



LULAC on the move in Congress.

VP for Women Margaret Moran with keynote speaker Bettina Rodriguez Aguilera, President Bettra, Inc. and Women's Commission Treasurer Cynthia Molina.



Participants of the LULAC women's conference in Miami, FL.



Participants of the LULAC women's conference in Miami, FL.



New Mexico LULAC elected new state officers. (L to R) Jessica I. Martinez, NM Youth State Director, Paul A. Martinez, NM State Director, Angela Gonzalez-Carver, Deputy State Director for Youth, Melissa Armijo, Deputy State Director, Deborah Morris, Deputy State Director for Women, Vicky Salazar, Deputy State Director for Elderly, Emilia Vasquez, Treasurer and Ashley Ramirez, Deputy State Director for Young Adults

# Hans Hertell

By Kenneth Dalecki

“Knowledge of the language, history and culture makes a big difference,” said Hans H. Hertell, U.S. ambassador to the Dominican Republic, during an interview with LULAC News in his sprawling embassy compound in downtown Santo Domingo.

Amb. Hertell, a native of San Juan, Puerto Rico, illustrates the advantages the U.S. enjoys because of its ethnic diversity. When President George W. Bush tapped Hertell in 2001 to represent the United States in the strategically important Caribbean nation, he picked a Hispanic American who already had substantial experience in the country. Hertell, a successful businessman and Republican Party activist, grew up across the Mona Passage from the Dominican Republic and had prior business dealings there.

“Representing the United States is a great honor,” said Hertell as he neared the end of his tenure as ambassador. And it has been a fruitful one. He worked hard to include the Dominican Republic in Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). Hertell noted that U.S. trade officials, when drafting plans for CAFTA, did not think the Dominican Republic would be willing to make the sweeping legal and business practice changes necessary to meet CAFTA’s tough requirements.

Surprisingly, Dominican leaders said they were ready to make the necessary changes and Hertell was in a key position to work with them. As a result, CAFTA was expanded to include the Dominican Republic and is now known as DR-CAFTA. “The treaty will transform the way business is done” in the Dominican Republic, he noted. It will allow U.S. companies to compete on a level playing field and require transparency in business dealings. U.S. firms will also be able to bid on major government contracts and Dominican authorities will have to enforce U.S. patent and copyright protections.

When fully implemented, the free trade pact promises to increase what is already robust bilateral trade between the two countries. About 80% of the Dominican Republic’s exports go to the U.S. and about 60% of its imports are from the U.S.

U.S.-Dominican relations have been good in recent years. Illicit drug trafficking is a major challenge for both countries and the Dominicans have been willing to extradite all but one drug trafficker indicted by the U.S. After 9/11,

## Profile



Hertell worked to enlist the Dominican Republic in the war on terrorism. The country has what he described as a “porous border” with Haiti, the unstable and impoverished country with which the Dominican Republic shares the island of Hispaniola.

Between 1982 and 1984, Amb. Hertell held posts as Puerto Rico’s attorney general, secretary of the treasury and secretary of agriculture. He was also a political and legal advisor to the governor of Puerto Rico.

Hertell, 55, has had extensive business experience and was the chairman of American Builders Corp., a general contractor in Puerto Rico, when he accepted the ambassadorial appointment. He said his stint as ambassador gave him a new appreciation for federal employees who support the U.S. mission abroad. And he has gained a new appreciation for what the U.S. is trying to do to help improve the lives of Dominicans. “If the American people knew, they would be proud of what U.S. Aid for International Development and the Peace Corps are doing,” he said.

# Profile:

## Q&A

By Lizette J. Olmos

Full Name: Haydee Rivera Cuadrado, LULAC National Vice President for the Southeast.

Q: Tell us about your career and family?

A: I am retired from the government of Puerto Rico where I worked for more than 30 years. I have two sons, Jose Victor and Juan Angel Martinez and three granddaughters, Peyline, Marina and Daniela.

Q: How long have you been involved with LULAC?

A: I have been involved with LULAC for more than 15 years as President Council, District Director, State Director and VP for the Southeast.

Q: Who do you admire most?

A: I admire National President Rosa Rosales for her persistence in her leadership development during several decades fighting for the civil rights of Hispanics.

Q: Who is your mentor?

A: Miguel Cordero, Ex Director of the Energy Department in Puerto Rico who was my boss for the last 8 years and Vice Mayor of San Juan.

Q: What made you want to get involved with LULAC?

A: Puerto Rico is one of the territorial colonies of the United States with citizens since 1917 who do not have the right to vote in federal elections. LULAC fights for the equal rights of Hispanics in the United States. We need strong organizations with an impact like LULAC. This motivated me to prompt the organization in all of the states to take on the issue of the Puerto Rico status.

Q: What do you think is one of the most important issues affecting Latinos today?

A: The most important issue that affects Latinos is the economic situation in their respective countries oppressing individual growth or families whose political parties or whose governments force people to cross the border illegally into the United States to look for the American dream. In our democratic society they can have the liberty to express themselves and grow by their own efforts.

Q: What was your most memorable LULAC moment?

A: My most memorable moment was when I was elected to be the VP for the Southeast and I received a hug from my grand kids Marina and Daniela. The oldest of the two said "I am very proud of you because you do it for the future of our family."

Q: What are the activities that you are involved in?

A: I am involved in the development of community activities with families of limited incomes and poor education where they are limited in remedial courses or vocations for their personal growth.

Q: What is an important leadership characteristic?

A: It is important to get involved in organizations and the development of values and being effective in communicating in a way that can meet the goals and objectives to be successful.

# Haydee Rivera



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

Q: What do you do when you are not with LULAC?

A: When I am not with LULAC I labor in the community, the church in which I belong to, I participate in my church events and I spend time with my family and grandchildren.

Also, I enjoy going to the movies, spending time with friends and also traveling.

Q: What has been the biggest impact on you this year?

A: My biggest satisfaction has been having a family with two sons and three grandchildren that are the love of my life and the light of my eyes. Having retired from the Puerto Rico government after having served "mi pueblo" for more than 32 years.

Q: What are you most proud of accomplishing?

A: This year after serving my fourth year as VP for the Southeast I want to increase significantly the number of councils in my region.

Q: What is your message to those reading this?

A: My message for those who read this magazine is to motivate everyone to participate in this great organization that once you are in it, you feel like part of an extended family. I urge you to join so you can experience the greatness of the organization like I have.

*Presented to Haydee Rivera, LULAC National Vice President Southeast*

"Thank you for your dedicated service"  
1st Hispanic American Veterans Summit

Presented by The Honorable R. Allen Pittman

Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration  
February 2007



# Profile

## Q&A

By Lizette J. Olmos

Full Name: Chevo Morales

Q: When and where were you born:

A: Jan. 25, 1951, in Pecos, Texas.

Q: How long have you been involved in LULAC:

A: The earliest paperwork of my involvement in LULAC that I found in my files is dated in the year 1971, so this is when I first joined our organization.

Q: Who do you admire the most:

A: My mother who made sure that we all got an education and taught us to do what was right no matter what the situation. And, she always told us to never forget where we came from. No matter what we accomplished. We would have our heritage to be proud of and which we have to maintain and pass on.

Q: Who was your mentor:

A: In LULAC, it is Past National President Manuel Gonzales, who convinced me to join and then for several years helped me and advised me on what I wanted to accomplish in the League.

Q: What made you want to get involved with LULAC:

A: I had always been involved in trying to make things better for people, starting in high school then college. When I got out of college, I wanted to continue to work in the community. I happened to attend a banquet the local council held here in Lubbock. The speaker that night was National President Manuel Gonzales and I just felt that all he talked about was what I was looking for. After talking to him afterwards, he convinced this was the place to be. The more I got involved, the more I realized I had made the right choice.

Q: What do you think is one of the most important tissues affecting Latinos today:

A: EDUCATION, EDUCATION and EDUCATION. No matter what other issues we need to work on or what we want to do, we need the education to know what needs to be done and how to do it. And it is a must that our youth get that education because they will be the ones that will have to deal with the issues in the future.

Q: What was your most memorable LULAC moment:

A: After 30 plus years in LULAC, I have had many memorable moments. It is very hard to pick one because at that time when it happened, it was a very special moment for me at that time.

Q: What are the activities that you are involved in:

A: I have served as an officer at the local, district, state and national level, so now I like to concentrate on my private life, my health and relax more. So I try to help mostly on some of the many functions my local council has. I do get many calls asking me to help or advise other members working on different projects. If my health or time allows, I will always try to help anyone that asks me and offer whatever I can.

Q: What is an important leadership characteristic:

A: LISTENING, we need to remember that one cannot be a leader

# Chevo Morales



unless you have someone to lead. And we must listen to what the people are asking, suggesting or wanting before you can lead anyone. We must always listen and then make decisions on what to do instead of acting without any input.

Q: What do you do when you are not with LULAC:

A: I am on some local city boards and I really like to get involved in their projects. And at home, my great love is music and I like to spend my time listening to or looking for music. And now that my two sons are grown and they also like music very much, I spend a lot of time doing this together with them.

Q: What has been the biggest impact on you:

A: I have had to work on many issues and some had good and happy results. But then, I have had to be involved with people that have really been done wrong. And many of these were really so bad that I never thought one human being could do these things to another. The hurt, sorrow and tears I have seen people having to endure is one thing I will have on my mind and heart for the rest of my life. The impact this had on me is that this is one thing that I just never can forget and it has changed the way I look at our society and people.

Q: What are you most proud of accomplishing:

A: The best feeling I can have is when someone, especially a student or youth, comes up to me and thanks me for something I did to help them. But because of LULAC, I have traveled all over this country and I have met many people and from this I have established many friendships that I would never trade for anything. I feel that this is one of the best things I have done and really am proud of.

Q: What is your message to those reading this:

A: Never give up hope. Many times we face some really big obstacles and it feels like everything is wrong and you will never overcome them. But two things we need to always remember is to pray for that special help we can get from prayers and keep on moving and not give up. As they say, no matter how dark it may seem, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

# Profile

## Q&A

By Lizette Jenness Olmos

Full Name: Jaime Martinez, LULAC National Treasurer.

Q: When and where were you born:

A: I was born in the year 1946 in San Antonio, Texas.

Q: How long have you been involved with LULAC?

A: Since 1980.

Q: Who do you admire most?

A: My fathers parents, mis abuelitos, Mexican, (Grandparents) migrant farm workers, Mauricio and Telesfora Martinez, born in 1880, members of the "Sociedad Mutualista Mexicana", who raised me when my mother died when I was three years old, they encouraged me to learn English and to never forget my "Culture" and where I came from.

Q: Who is your mentor?

A: I had several that inspired me, "mis abuelitos", taught me by example to serve our people by involving me at an early age with the organization "La Sociedad Mutualista Mexicana" and to respect my elders, and Cesar E. Chavez, whom I had a personal working relationship, who instilled in me the "spirit of non-violence" and that unity in community is critical for social, economic and political change, never to give up and to continue to work tirelessly for the greatest good of the community.

Q: Who made you want to get involved with LULAC?

A: Two national LULAC presidents, Mr. Mario Obledo and Ms. Rosa Rosales.

Q: What do you think is one of the most important issues affecting Latinos today?

A: The lack of health care access to for Latino community, who is facing a health care crisis every day in America, due to no health insurance. The millions of people who are uninsured, underinsured, 85% of the uninsured are under the age of 65 and are members of poor working families, one-third are Latinos-our people are dying due to the lack of quality health care access.

Q: What was your most memorable LULAC

moment?

A: When LULAC took to the streets last year and organized millions of Latinos in response to the anti-immigrant rhetoric in America, scapegoating the hard-working immigrants in this country who contribute billions of dollars to the economy.

Q: What are the activities that you are involved in?

A: Organizing, educating for a just comprehensive immigration reform, and for a temporary moratorium to protect the hard working immigrants like Elvira Arellano an undocumented worker who took sanctuary in a church in Chicago in order not to be separated from her son, Saul Arellano, after she was ordered deported.

Q: What is an important leadership characteristic?

A: I strongly believe that a leadership characteristic is not about a position, it is about action on our issues and the willingness to serve.

Q: What do you do when you are not with LULAC?

A: Spending quality time with my wife and family, mentoring young people in the Cesar E. Chavez March for Justice campaign, which has become the largest in the nation, in San Antonio, Texas, 25,000 strong this year, and raising scholarships for under privileged youth, in the spirit of our great American role model Cesar E. Chavez.

Q: What has had the biggest impact on you this year?

A: Helping Elvira Arellano, and her son Saulito, the undocumented mother with a temporary moratorium, in order to stop the separation of all hardworking immigrant families in this country.

Q: What are you most proud of accomplishing?

A: Having been reared by Mexican migrant farm workers, they would be proud of what I have done with my life, standing up for the migrant farm workers and joining the struggle of Cesar E. Chavez, fighting for the civil, human, and labor rights of our people, the immigrants, going into the White House to a meeting with President Jimmy Carter, and having

# Jaime Martinez

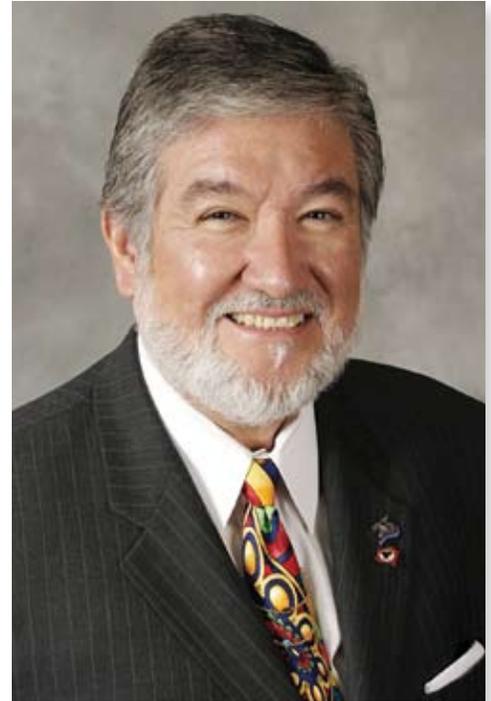


Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

met with presidents in Latin America and attending Human and Labor Rights meetings in the Dominican Republic, Chiapas, to promote international human rights of immigrant workers, serving as a member for the Nobel Peace Prize for Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia, of San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas Mexico, and most of all being elected to the National Executive Board of LULAC, as Treasurer and to serve on the National Executive Board of the National Labor Council for Latin American Advancement and the IUE-AFL-CIO.

Q: What do you think feels needs to be addressed?

A: A just comprehensive immigration reform and insure the uninsured in this country.

Q: What is your message to those reading the LULAC News?

A: Always remember that the important keys in life are having self confidence and always being prepared to do your best, that is all that is required of us. Work hard and follow your dreams. "SI SE PUEDE !"

# Profile:

## Q&A

By Lizette Jenness Olmos

Full Name: Maria Alicia Gomez de Rios, National LULAC Vice President for the Midwest.

Q: When and where were you born?

A: I was born on Mar. 20, 1949, in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico – Tamaulipas. My father, Jose Rogelio Gomez, residing and working in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico married my mother, Felipa Rodriguez an American Citizen from Laredo, Texas. I am the oldest of 6 children and the only child born outside of the United States. Since my grandmother Tomasa Gomez, and all of (my fathers family) my uncles, aunts and cousins lived in Nuevo Laredo, we made many trips from Indiana to Mexico, while I was growing up. I graduated from Bishop Noll Institute, a Catholic high school, in 1967. In August of 1968 I became a Naturalized U.S. American Citizen. Up until then, I had dual citizenship and had to declare my American citizenship before I reached the age of 21. It's funny how things change; now if I chose, I could apply to have dual citizenship status.

Q: How long have you been involved with LULAC?

A: I have been involved in LULAC for 16 years. I joined the Merrillville LULAC Council #5009 in 1991. I have held the positions of secretary and treasurer on a local level. On the State level I have held the position of Indiana LULAC State Treasurer, State Secretary, District 1 Director, Deputy State Director and Indiana LULAC State Director. I held these positions for their maximum term. After transferring my membership to the Duneland LULAC Council #5016, I was elected and still hold the position of President of this council. I am currently the LULAC National Vice President for the Midwest Region.

Q: Whom do you admire most?

A: There are many people I admire. I admire my parents for all they did for me and my brothers and sisters, while we were growing up. My Father had a lot of courage in leaving his family behind in Mexico and relocate to Indiana. We left Texas and Mexico without knowing where we were going to live. My father worked dirty jobs in the steel mill. He worked swing shifts and many times worked 16 hours in one day, all for \$25 a day to put food on the table for us and to send us to school and clothe us. My Mother never worked. She was too busy cooking, cleaning, washing and taking care of all 6 of us.

I also admire the people that helped me come this far in LULAC, my friends and colleagues Zoraida Medellin, Maria Pizana, Augustin Sanchez, Raymond Paz, Ana Valenzuela-Estrada, my council members and Guadalupe Lopez, just to name a few. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think that I would be a National Vice President of LULAC, the largest and most respected civil rights organization in the country. I would not be here in this position today, if it were not for the support and guidance of these and other individuals.

# Alicia Rios



Q: Who is your mentor?

A: I have had many mentors throughout my life. In school it was my 8th grade math teacher who believed in me and challenged me to do well in mathematics. If it had not been for her guidance, I would not be in the accounting field. My husband, Oscar has been one of my greatest mentors. This year we will be married 40 years. I was 19 years old when I married Oscar. Oscar taught me how to drive, how to open up a checking account and how to save my money. He had a vision and a goal for our life from the moment we met and married. Oscar contributed to the raising of our children. Together we have three beautiful and successful adult children. My mentor in LULAC is Maria de Lourdes Pizana. I met Maria through a friend when she became a member of our LULAC council. Maria showed me the vision of LULAC. Maria has been one of the most influential people in my life when it comes to LULAC. Maria's confidence in me changed my life. With Maria's support and guidance, I learned to be patient, to follow protocol, to see the bigger picture and look outside the box. She taught me not be afraid to speak up and express my thoughts and ideas. I learned to communicate and to be inclusive. I learned to be a LULAC leader.

Q: What made you want to get involved with LULAC?

A: I learned of LULAC while growing up in East Chicago Indiana. LULAC Council #349 was very much involved and an important part of that community. I looked forward to some day being a member of LULAC. However, my journey in life took me to marriage then children and work. My husband and I started our life together and it wasn't until my children grew up and started their own lives, did I find myself with an empty nest and time to spare. I was asked to join organizations like the Hispanic Women's Forum, Hispanic Voices and Women in Construction. I turned them all down because I was still looking for LULAC. Then, in 1991, my friend, Hector Espinoza informed me that there was a LULAC council in Merrillville and he invited me to join...so here I am.

Q: What do you think is one of the most important issues affecting Latinos today?

A: Although Immigration is an important issue, I feel that many

*Continued on page 20.*

# Profile:



# Alicia Rios

Continued from page 19.

of the children in our Latino families are growing up too soon. The fact that families need 2 incomes to make ends meet, means that children are left to take care of themselves and many not only themselves but also their siblings. The responsibilities our children face on a daily basis overshadow their time in life to just be “kids”. Daily routines in going to school and not eating healthy then coming home to do homework and taking care of household duties are huge responsibilities for children. The responsibilities are even greater for those children that have only one parent. These children become vulnerable. They lose interest in school, they may get mixed up with the wrong crowd or they may even become very depressed. I’m concerned about our children.

Q: What was your most memorable LULAC moment?

A: One of my most memorable moments in LULAC was when I was inducted into the LULAC National Women’s Hall of Fame. Just to have been nominated was exciting. The nomination made me feel that the members of Indiana LULAC appreciated my work in LULAC and respected me as an individual. The recognition also encouraged me to grow, learn and continue to work for the good and welfare of the League. Another great memorable moment was the opportunity to meet and have my picture taken with President William Jefferson Clinton at the 10th Annual LULAC Legislative Gala. It was also exciting to see Senator Hillary Clinton in New York at the LULAC National Women’s Conference and to have her autograph my (her) book “It Takes a Village”. These moments I will never forget!

Q: What are the activities that you are involved in?

A: I was a member of the Duneland Girl Scouts Board of Directors and a member of the Town of Merrillville Parade Committee. I was an officer on the Child Abuse Prevention Committee and currently I am a member of the Service Academy Board under the direction of Indiana Congressman Peter J. Visclosky. My duties and responsibility as a National Vice President with LULAC takes up most of my time. Therefore, it is difficult to get involved in outside activities other than LULAC. However, I love to dance. My husband is a great dancer and we enjoy going out dancing together.

Q: What is an important leadership characteristic?

A: An important characteristic in a leader is to be inclusive. A leader who is inclusive must also have good training and communication characteristics. I believe a good leader must have an open mind. The leader must look, listen and learn from the people he or she leads. I also believe that communication is an absolute necessity. The leader must share the leadership with those he or she leads. We as leaders must encourage those we lead to move up towards the leadership position by preparing, training and giving them the opportunity to fill positions available. A good leader observes those he or she leads and works toward grooming and training new leaders.

Q: What do you do when you are not with LULAC?

A: Outside of LULAC, I work for Superior Construction Co., Inc. in Gary, Indiana. I have been employed for 25 years and work in the accounting department. Superior Construction Co., Inc. is a major general contractor; we construct highways, schools,

wastewater treatment plants and pipelines for the BP Amoco refinery plant in Whiting, Indiana. Superior Construction Co., Inc. also has a second office in Jacksonville, Florida. I was instrumental in helping with the success of that office. I would travel to Jacksonville to train the girls in data entry, the accounting process, as well as the contract and insurance process in the construction field.

During the months of January through April, I own and operate a small business by the name of, Gomez Tax Service. With the help of my sister Maria Gomez, and my partner and best friend, Maria Pizana, we have been in business successfully for more than 10 years. We at Gomez Tax Service work closely with our Hispanic Community. We are a bi-lingual service. Our work not only includes standard 1040’s, but also small companies, S-Corp 1120-S, sole proprietorships, general bookkeeping and W-7 applications to acquire an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN). In November and part of December, my husband and I spend time at our second home in San Antonio, Texas. We own a lake house on Medina Lake in Lakehills, Texas. Throughout the rest of the year I am very involved with my children and grandchildren. I love playing the role of “Guela” and enjoy spending time with and spoiling my grandchildren every chance I get.

Q: What has been the biggest impact on you this year?

A: The biggest impact on me this year was having the opportunity to lobby on the Congressional Hill in Washington DC. To lobby on issues that concern our Hispanic population had an impact on me that I will never forget. My colleagues and I were able to discuss concerns on Education, Health, Civil Rights and Legislative Policy with members of Congress and representatives from the offices of Senator Clinton, Senator Obama and Senator Ken Salazar. What an impact on my life!

Q: What are you most proud of accomplishing?

A: My proudest accomplishment is having successfully raised three children, with the help of my husband, Oscar. My children’s names are Alicia Rios-Little, Raquel Rios-Gonzales and Oscar Rios, Jr. They have, all together, given me seven (7) beautiful grandchildren, ranging from ages fifteen (15) to four (4). Alicia and Raquel work in Illinois and commute via the South Shore Train to Chicago, everyday. Oscar Jr. works the tri-state area covering Indiana, Illinois and Michigan as a file worker in fiber optics. My children are responsible, respectable and educated adults who contribute to society. Oscar and I are very proud of our children.

Q: What is your message to those reading this?

A: My message is that we all must work together to achieve our goals. We all matter in life. Each of us can make a difference in the life of others. We need to educate ourselves on the issues that concern us, as well as the rest of our Hispanic population. It is important to educate other individuals and groups about us, our culture and our importance in society. We need to place ourselves in positions that will make a difference in our country. We need a supportive network to accomplish our goals in life; we cannot do it alone. In unity we will prevail.

# POLICY and Legislation

## Legislative News: Immigration Policy Update

By Javier Dominguez, LULAC National Director of Legislation

This past year, we made our voices known. We marched in the millions. We voted. We rallied around Washington,



Convention Co-Chair Darryl Morin, LULAC National President Rosa Rosales, VP for the Midwest Alicia Rios, National Vice President for Young Adults Michelle Pelayo and National Legal Advisor Luis Vera visiting members of congressional offices.

D.C. We visited state assemblies, city halls, held press conferences, attended vigils and hearings, and united in churches with help from a diverse coalition.

But most of all, we wept for families and friends that have been torn apart and outcast through shameful deportations and massive raids. Many of the victims' whereabouts are still unknown, families remain broken apart, and no legal recourse has been granted (even to U.S. citizens wrongfully detained).

We could no longer endure this crisis. Today, some 12 million people remain in the shadows, uncertain whether they will stay with their children in this country, where most have lived for more than five years.

Do we purposefully neglect our past? Are we choosing to live a life of negligence and ignorance?

Except for Native-Americans, we are a nation of immigrants, starting with the first day that the pilgrims landed in Plymouth,

Mass., in 1620. Like today's immigrants, they came to this land with hopes of escaping peril and improving their lives. Just as the pilgrims did almost four-hundred years ago, today many continue to risk and lose their lives coming here. And far too many will continue to die tragic deaths in the desert for the betterment of their families if Congress fails

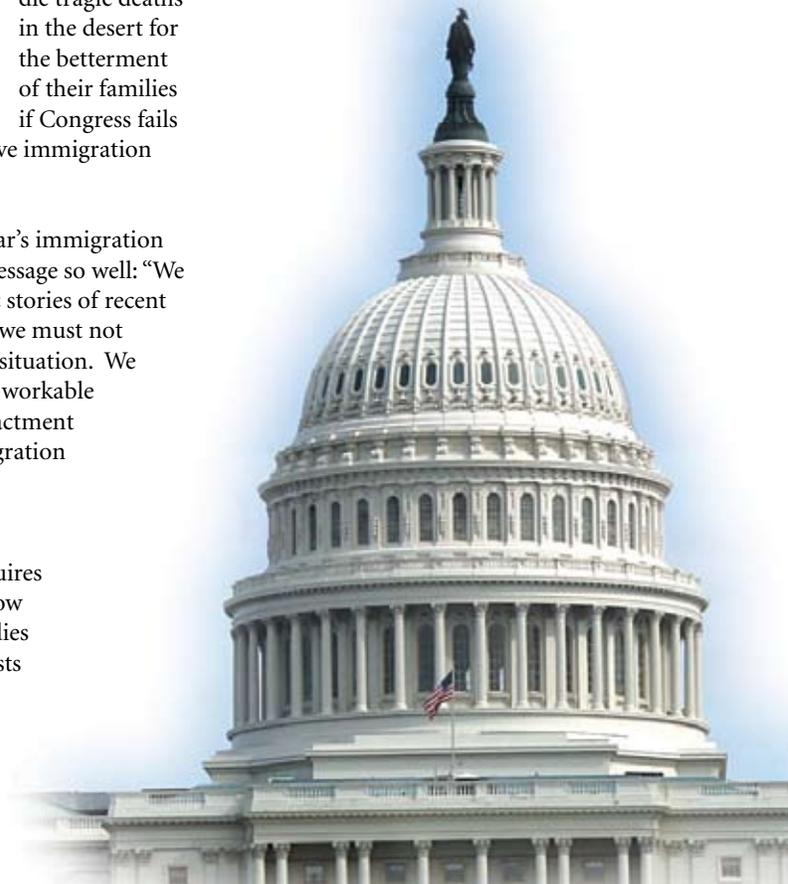
to approve comprehensive immigration reform.

The signs from last year's immigration marches resonate this message so well: "We are America." The tragic stories of recent immigrant are ours and we must not continue to ignore their situation. We must find a sensible and workable solution through the enactment of comprehensive immigration reform.

Fixing our broken immigration system requires that we work together now to eliminate those tragedies and serve the best interests for our country. It is the most effective way to serve the nation's economic interests and protect our national security. By effectively reforming

our immigration laws and bringing people out of the shadows through an earned and legalized system, we will protect civil rights, help unite families that have been broken apart, promote our economic growth, safeguard our national security, and restore the rule of law.

We are calling on Congress' leadership to solve the problem. We must pass comprehensive immigration reform this year. Both House and Senate leaders have vowed to pass legislation before their summer recess and President Bush has vowed to sign comprehensive immigration reform legislation. The time is now to meet this challenge.



## Texas Gov. Rick Perry Supports LNESC With \$500,000 Grant For Career Prep Program In Five LNESC Target Communities

Article by Phil Valdez. Photos by Luis Nuño Briones

Austin, Texas. – Gov. Rick Perry was recognized for his support for Texas LNESC Field Centers in five of the state’s major cities during the 2007 Texas LULAC Legislative Gala on Feb. 15.



LULAC National President Rosa Rosales, Texas Governor Rick Perry, LNESC Chairman Roman Palomares and LNESC Executive Director Richard Roybal.

Awards of appreciation were presented by Texas LULAC State Director Roger Rocha, LULAC National President Rosa Rosales, LNESC Board of Directors Chairman Roman Palomares, LNESC Board Member Margaret Moran and LNESC Director Richard Roybal.

The \$500,000 state workforce grant ensures that Texas LULAC National Educational Service Centers, Inc. (Texas LNESC) will be able to continue its Career Prep Program and keep its centers open. Gov. Perry acted to assist LNESC after learning that LNESC had lost funding from the U.S. Department of Education. His help showed his support for Texas LNESC and its goal of “building the strength of our community by empowering students to maximize their personal and educational potential.” The grant has forged a working relationship between the state of Texas and Texas LNESC.

The goal of the Texas LNESC Career Prep Program is to provide low-income youth (ages 14-21) get pre-employment information and training to find meaningful and productive work in today’s labor market. Youths participate in career exploration activities and receive post-high school

and financial aid information plus pre-employment training to develop job and interpersonal skills to get part-time employment and learn about the connection between education, jobs and careers.

The Workforce grant will help ensure that the Texas LNESC Field Centers’ highly effective services will continue to help disadvantaged and minority students prepare for college. LNESC’s services are desperately needed by students in neighborhoods with high rates of poverty, school drop out and unemployment.

The Career Prep Program is being implemented at the five Texas LNESC Field Centers, which are in Corpus Christi, Dallas, El Paso, Houston and San Antonio. The program plans to serve a total of 1,500 low-income students.

Also receiving awards at the gala were state Reps. Rafael Anchia, Rick Noriega and Pete Gallego, state Sen. Judith Zaffirini and Texas ACLU Executive Director Will Harrell.



TX. Rep. Pete Gallego



TX. Rep. Rafael Anchia.



TX. Rep. Rick Noriega



TX. ACLU Executive Director Will Harrell



John Esparza and Roger Rocha, TX. LULAC Director

## Gov. Bill Richardson Provides Funding For LNESC-Albuquerque

Article by John Moya

This past summer upon hearing the news about the U.S. Department of Education denying grant

money to the LULAC National Educational Service Centers, and almost forcing the center in Albuquerque to close, the Governor of New Mexico, Bill Richardson



Bill Richardson, Governor of New Mexico.

announced that he would free up \$80,000 to keep the doors open at the Albuquerque center.

The money came from federal fiscal relief money that can be used as a stop-gap source to keep the center opened. “Once again we are forced to move in to keep this essential service afloat because federal bureaucrats in Washington D.C. indiscriminately cut off funding to low-income New Mexicans who want a chance to succeed,” Governor Bill Richardson said.

The money allows LNESC to continue to provide essential educational services to low-income students. However, that money runs out in June. The Governor’s Executive recommendation to the New Mexico Legislature included \$200,000 to continue funding the Albuquerque center.

“This is the wrong time to cut off access to a program like this,” Governor Richardson said. “We need all the help we can get as we work to provide more opportunities for New Mexicans to pursue a higher education.”

If funding is not renewed by the State of New Mexico, many lives will be affected. LNESC works with students at the middle and high school levels as well as an adult population. LNESC is hopeful that the Governor Richardson will come through once again to keep the doors open at the Albuquerque center.

On Jan. 21, 2007, Gov. Richardson announced his candidacy for the Democratic Nomination for President of the United States.



# 78<sup>th</sup> LULAC National Convention & Exposition

Chicago, Illinois | July 9-14, 2007



**Empowering Latinos:  
Building Prosperity through Partnerships**

**League of United Latin American Citizens**

**10,000 Participants**

**50 Workshops & Seminars**

**Health Fair**

**400 Exhibitors**

**Federal Training Institute**

**Youth Conference**

**150 Panelists & Speakers**

**Career & College Fair**

**First Rate Entertainment**

**To register or for more information contact the LULAC National Office at (877) LULAC-01 or visit our website at [www.lulac.org](http://www.lulac.org)**



Xavier Montanez, Chaska Arnold, Ana Estrada, Joey Ramirez, Amanda Montoya, Tamotu Ngauamo, Michael Ramirez, Miguel Zazueta, and Dr. John David Arnold at the LULAC Youth meeting in Tucson, Arizona.



Photo by Luis Nuno Briones

Texas LULAC District 3 Cena en el Barrio volunteers. More than 1000 food baskets were donated to low income and needed families. This project was sponsored by Coors Brewing Company and Tyson Foods.

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

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



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