

LULAC NEWS

League of United Latin American Citizens

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LULAC NEWS

League of United Latin American Citizens

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Cover: The cover features several different photos that represent special events of 2001 for LULAC, the Hispanic community, and the United States.

One-year subscription price is \$24. Single copies are \$4.50. LULAC members receive a complimentary subscription. The publisher encourages LULAC members to submit articles and photos for inclusion in future issues. Once submitted, articles are property of the LULAC News and may be subject to editing.

Advertising rates for the LULAC NEWS are available by contacting the LULAC National Office in Washington, D.C. (202) 833-6130.

President's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LULAC:



I would like to wish all LULAC members and their families a happy holiday season from myself, the LULAC National Board and National Staff. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank each member for the hard work and dedication they exhibit all year long while helping the Latino community.

This holiday season is quite unlike any we have ever seen in the history of our country. I ask

that LULAC members pray for everyone touched by the events of September 11, the anthrax scares, and the ongoing war against terrorism in Afghanistan. I know that as an organization, a community and a country, we will come together to bring a joyful and peaceful close to this year. Let us hope that 2002 brings a new sense of security and a return to normalcy in America.

I personally look forward to the challenges of the upcoming year, my last as LULAC National President. The organization is actively seeking new members so that when I step aside next June, I will leave my predecessor a bigger and stronger organization than the one I took over four years ago.

Our national office in Washington is already in high gear preparing for LULAC's two major annual events, the LULAC Legislative Awards Gala and LULAC National Convention. As always, the legislative gala will be held in our nation's capital this March and will gather leaders from all facets of society to honor those that have served us well in the political arena.

Our 73rd national convention and exposition will be held next June 23-29 in Houston, Texas. It is a great honor for me to have the opportunity to host the greatest convention of the year in my hometown. I hope to see every LULAC member from California to Puerto Rico come together in Houston for what I promise will be the time of your life.

Policy Strategy for 2002

In keeping with LULAC's role in the policy arena — advocacy and support for LULAC membership — legislative priorities will continue based on the LULAC National Convention's Legislative Platform. The issues addressed are focused on the following five priority areas: education, health, immigration, economic and political representation, and social justice.

The events of September 11th have forced a re-examination of our traditional priorities and a shift in strategy, and suggest a need for a deeper analysis of our changing national priorities and its impact on the Hispanic community.

The year 2002 promises to be one of new challenges. The country faces not only a challenging war, but an economy that is less secure and in recession. Policy priorities have been reconstructed by the administration as a result of the war in Afghanistan and other tensions worldwide. There are eminent changes in the relationship between government and the people. More than ever, it is important for the organization to attend to its mission, while at the same time remaining sufficiently flexible to engage in the exploration of new approaches in advocacy.

LULAC is currently working closely with Leslie Sanchez and the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans to establish a set of educational goals for Latino students. As a member of the Hispanic Education Coalition (HEC), LULAC continues to lobby for legislation that would benefit Latino education in general with particular emphasis on Elementary & Secondary Education Act appropriations. We also continue to advocate for the Broadband Internet Access Act to provide rapid deployment of Internet services for low-income urban and rural communities where many Hispanics reside.

Please remember that you can help by contacting your representatives on the issues important to the Latino community.

Sincerely,

Rick Dovalina
LULAC National President

LULAC Index: Latinos Are the Future

The following numbers represent the percentage of the population under age of 18 who are Hispanic in each state.

50.9	New Mexico	19.0	New York
43.8	California	17.0	Illinois
40.5	Texas	16.2	New Jersey
36.1	Arizona	14.1	Rhode Island
28.6	Nevada	13.7	Connecticut
23.5	Colorado	12.7	Oregon
19.3	Florida	11.9	Hawaii

Leadership Summit Aims to Establish Forum for Latino Issues of the Southeast

The first LULAC Leadership Summit for the Southeast took place in San Juan, Puerto Rico from October 19–21, 2001. The summit was nearly canceled because of the horrific events of September 11th; however, Elsie Valdes, LULAC National Vice President for the Southeast, and Haydee Rivera, LULAC State Director for Puerto Rico, felt it was important to carry on with the event in memory of those lost to the tragedy, and in tribute to the heroism of the many firefighters, police officers, medical teams and volunteers who have bravely faced the crisis.

The summit was originally planned as part of a celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, specifically to recognize the rapid growth of the Hispanic population in the American southeast during the past decade. As such, it was designed to become one of the prime public policy forums for Hispanic affairs in the region. It provided a unique opportunity to discuss some of the most pressing issues affecting Latinos in both the southeast and the country generally.

Approximately 100 participants listened to thoughtful presentations regarding such varied topics as civil rights, advocacy, coalition-building, and the use of the media for political campaigns, as well as a sobering discussion on HIV/AIDS and bio-terrorism related to the anthrax scare. Summit participants were able to engage expert panelists in lively discussion after their presentations.

The first day of the conference took place in the amphitheater of the Museo de Arte de San Juan. The first seminar was led by LULAC leaders, including Hector Flores, LULAC National Treasurer; Rosa Rosales, LULAC National Vice President for Women; Juan García, LULAC National Vice President for Young Adults; and Fernando Escabí, LULAC National Vice President for Youth. Their discussions focused on LULAC positions on the power of education, advocacy, and civil rights.

That lively workshop was followed by a presentation by Carlos Escalante, Executive Director of the Interamerican Center for Political Management in Florida. Mr. Escalante detailed the challenges of the political campaign process and provided attend-

ees with an overview of different communications theories by which Latinos can empower themselves politically should they choose to run for office.

The presentations on HIV/AIDS and anthrax held the audience in rapt attention. Maria Ayala, Senior Evaluator for Health Program Consultants in Puerto Rico, spoke of the devastating impact AIDS was having on Puerto Rico, particularly its younger inhabitants. She was accompanied by Dr. Kenneth Dominguez of the Center for Disease Control, who gave a national perspective on the disease. Both their conclusions were the same: Hispanics are over-represented among persons with AIDS. Dr. Dominguez also gave a brief presentation on the basics of anthrax and how its spread can be prevented.

After the full day of invaluable presentations, Elsie Valdez invited the participants to a networking reception, “Nuestros Lideres/Our Leaders,” held at the San Juan City Hall where local leaders mingled with LULAC members and shared important viewpoints on their regional experiences.

The Leadership Summit was wrapped up the following day at the historical Teatro



LULAC National President Rick Dovalina with LULAC Vice President for the Southeast and Summit host Elsie Valdes.

Tapia with a panel discussion on Hispanics and the congressional agenda. After a rousing chorus of “God Bless America,” Sharon Castillo, communications director for the Republican National Committee in Washington D.C., delivered a hopeful message from President George W. Bush. The President believes that the future of the United States is directly related to the strides that Latinos are now making, Ms. Castillo said. In the president’s words, “America’s great success has grown from its diverse population and the Hispanic community has been an essential contributor to this success story.”



LULAC board members share a moment at the LULAC Leadership Summit for the Southeast in San Juan, PR. L-R: Fernando Escabí, Vice President for Youth; Rosa Rosales, Vice President for Women; Damaris Sifuentes, Vice President for Elderly; Brent Wilkes, National Executive Director; Rick Dovalina, National President; Blanca Vargas, Vice President for the Midwest; Hector Flores, National Treasurer; Armando Pomar, Florida State Director; and Juan García, Vice President for Young Adults.

PBS To Premiere Latino Drama

Network To Launch National Outreach Campaign to Latino Communities

Early next year the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) will premiere a new Latino drama series featuring an all-Latino cast. *AMERICAN FAMILY*, premiering in January 2002, will be the first Latino drama ever to air on broadcast television. Created by Academy Award nominated director Gregory Nava (*Selena*), the series features an all-star cast of top Latino talent including Edward James Olmos, Raquel Welch and Esai Morales. Set in Los Angeles, the series chronicles the lives of the Gonzalez family, depicting, with humor and affection, their daily challenges and triumphs and the bonds that hold them together.

"This exciting new Latino drama is a step in the right direction for assuring that Latinos gain recognition and prominence in the media," said Monica Medina, Outreach Project Director for *AMERICAN FAMILY*. "As it will be airing on broadcast television, the series has great potential for tune-in and for developing a wide-reaching audience well beyond the Latino community."

Produced by El Norte Films and KCET/

Hollywood, the 13-part *AMERICAN FAMILY* series will be supported by a national outreach campaign that will help local PBS stations build and sustain long-term relationships with Latino communities and organizations.

AMERICAN FAMILY and its outreach campaign will bring public television media resources and opportunities to local Latino communities and organizations. It will lay the groundwork for a meaningful partnership as a way to address local issues and present the perspectives of the Latino community. Through broadening the dialogue around family and community issues, *AMERICAN FAMILY* will give all Americans a new understanding about the vital contributions of diverse Latino cultures across America.

A vital component to the outreach will be the *AMERICAN FAMILY* Album. Everyone is part of a family and has treasured family stories to share. This engaging activity will provide opportunities for families and communities to explore their art, culture, history, and traditions. The *AMERICAN FAMILY* Al-



Edward James Olmos and Sonia Braga star in *AMERICAN FAMILY*.

bum may become part of local festivals and events. Stations will be encouraged to invite local participation and showcase personal stories on their Web sites. Stations may also host daylong "Mi Familia" events to showcase the art, culture and traditions of Latin Americans through hands-on activities, music, performances, interactive online experiences, and community resources.

"This is a groundbreaking opportunity for Latino organizations and communities to partner with their local public stations to increase awareness for the series and engage families in local activities," Medina said.

On a national level, the campaign will forge relationships with Latino organizations, including LULAC, to develop resources and support activities within local communities. Funding for the national outreach campaign is being provided by Johnson & Johnson, Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) and PBS.

For more information about the outreach initiative, contact Monica Medina at mmedina@kpbs.org, or 619.594.7152.



Photo by Joseph Viles

AMERICAN FAMILY stars (back row, l-r) Kurt Caceres, Rachel Ticotin, Esai Morales, Maria Canals, Raquel Welch; (front row, l-r) Constance Marie, Edward James Olmos, Sonia Braga, Austin Noah Marques and A.J. Lamas.

LULAC Tennessee: The Determination of a Younger Generation

To see LULAC sprout up in new places one only needs to look in Memphis, Tennessee, where the Latino population has grown from 7,000 in 1998 to more than 150,000 in 2001. LULAC Tennessee originated from the determination of five professional women, each from a different country in Latin America.

Current State Director Dilka Román, a Puerto Rican, along with Cristina Vargas of Colombia, Elena Salas of Panama, Anna Palazola of Venezuela, and Mary Longoria of Mexico, came together to form a grassroots organization hoping to make a difference in Memphis. Working from their kitchens and the trunks of their cars, LULAC was born.

Before long each of these women were addressing issues of discrimination against Hispanics, and promoting bilingualism, education, and Hispanic businesses to the outside community. They have also recruited an energetic young group of members who are dedicated to improving the conditions of Hispanics in Tennessee.

Now LULAC Tennessee has grown out of the kitchen and into its own facility. In January of 2001, LULAC Tennessee opened its 3000 sq. ft. state office and resource center. The center is run by volunteers who assist over 250 members and respond to more than 80 phone calls per day.

To date, LULAC Tennessee has helped the Hispanic community by assisting with rent and utility payments, delivering food to under-privileged families, assisting with jobs,

assisting with funeral services, and providing religious and professional counseling, legal services, housing services and money management seminars.

For almost a year, the LULAC center has been hosting ESL and computer classes taught by local LULAC college students. The response has been impressive with over 100 students enrolled.

This past summer LULAC Tennessee assisted more than 1000 Hispanics over a 7-hour period who came to apply for the IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. This number allows immigrants to open bank accounts without the need for a Social Security number, as well as obtain state identification and legally pay taxes.

LULAC Tennessee was also recently involved in assisting over 450 workers with a food drive when their employer left town. LULAC arranged for food to be donated from other nearby states as well.

One of the main goals of LULAC has been to raise funds for young students to go to college. The state of Tennessee does not recognize Hispanics as minorities. This denies Hispanics the advantages of affirmative action at state colleges and universities and further hinders the possibility of scholarships. Over \$90,000 has been awarded to deserving Hispanic students in Tennessee. Each student who has received a scholarship is responsible for donating fifty hours to the LULAC state office in Memphis.

LULAC Tennessee has also started to



Local business contractors receive a lesson in architectural formation from Mexican architect Ricardo Escajadillo (standing) at the LULAC Tennessee technology center.

have a presence in the local media. They were featured recently on Univision's *Primer Impacto*. When Maximilia Barron, a seven-

(continued next page)



LULAC scholarship recipients paint the Tennessee State Office in preparation for its opening.



Immigrant workers line up outside of the LULAC Tennessee office to receive assistance in obtaining an ITN number that will allow them to file tax returns and open bank accounts.

Verizon Gives \$200,000 To LULAC Young Readers

Recognizing that the path to success in school starts early in the educational process, Verizon Communications has joined LULAC and LULAC National Educational Service Centers (LNESEC) to help young Hispanic children develop good reading skills. With a continued grant from Verizon in the amount of \$200,000, LNESEC will implement and increase the Young Readers Program in fifteen Hispanic communities across the country.

The Young Readers Program was originally implemented as a six-week summer program but has been expanded to a year-long program due to the generous contribution to literacy made by Verizon Communications and the Verizon Foundation.

“Lacking necessary language skills to excel in the classroom, Hispanic students often fall behind their peers in scholastic achievement,” said Richard Roybal, LNESEC Executive Director. “By the time they reach high school, many become frustrated by this lack of achievement and drop out of school. It is imperative that we intervene early in the educational process and reverse this trend.”

The program provides elementary students an opportunity to experience enjoy-



LNESEC Executive Director Richard Roybal and LULAC Executive Director Brent Wilkes stand with Verizon Vice President Victor Cabral, who holds up a check for \$200,000 designated for LULAC’s Young Readers Program.

able reading activities that instill a love for reading, encouraging them to make reading a life-long habit. Ultimately, the program was designed for students to improve their overall school performance and increase their reading scores.

Participants meet weekly during the summer and monthly during the school year with a reading coordinator and engage in educational activities that are entertaining and help children build concepts, develop an understanding on the reading process and experience the joy of reading.

A local elementary public school provides a reading teacher to implement the program. Support of the local community and parental involvement are central to the suc-

cess of the program.

This grant was made possible through the Verizon Foundation, which serves the nonprofit community on behalf of Verizon Communications, America’s premier wireline and wireless company with more than 112 million access line equivalents and more than 28 million wireless subscribers. The Verizon foundation is one of the top 10 largest corporate foundations. One of Verizon’s major funding priorities is basic literacy due to its impact on education, health, economic development, and those who speak English as a second language.

For more information, call Lorena Maymi, National Young Readers Coordinator, at (202) 835-9646.



Tennessee State Director Dilka Román (far left) readies the field of contestants in the potato sack races. The event was part of the 5th Annual Fiesta for Children held in conjunction with Radio Ambiente.

month pregnant Mexican woman was brutally murdered and her 4-year-old son Eric went missing, LULAC Tennessee sought the assistance of America’s Most Wanted to profile the case in the hope of finding the missing

child. When the young boy’s body was found several months later, LULAC was there to make arrangements for the bodies to be sent home to Mexico for burial. LULAC continues to push the local law enforcement agen-

cies to find those responsible.

LULAC Tennessee continues to build its resources to keep fighting the issues that affect all Hispanics living in the state. LULAC’s state office and resource center has served to bring the Hispanic community together, providing them with educational forums on topics such as women’s health, immigration, cultural adaptation, family planning, and civil rights symposiums.

State Director Dilka Román plans to keep increasing membership, and is actively working to generate new revenues and develop more programs for the Tennessee State Office. “Compared to where we were three years ago, we have come a long way,” she said. “But there are so many of our people that need help and LULAC will continue to work hard so that we can provide all that’s needed to Latinos in Tennessee.”

*The League of United Latin American Citizens
and its Corporate Alliance
cordially invite you to attend*



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LULAC
National Legislative Awards Gala
Celebrating the 73rd Anniversary of LULAC



J.W. Marriott Hotel
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Wednesday, March 13, 2002

6:00 pm Cocktails

7:00 pm Awards

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9:00 pm Entertainment



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Black Tie



2002 LULAC National Legislative Awards Gala

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LULAC and Mazda Give Away New Car

Matthew M. Lara of San Antonio, TX, was awarded a new 2002 Mazda Protegé5 by Mazda and LULAC on Saturday, December 8 at LULAC's annual board meeting. Proceeds benefit the LULAC National Office, LULAC National Educational Service Centers, and local LULAC councils throughout the country who participated in the program.

"LULAC is very pleased to be partners with Mazda," said LULAC National President Rick Dovalina. "They are a company committed to giving back to the Hispanic community and providing our organization with a new Mazda Protegé is proof of that. The proceeds from this raffle will allow LULAC to give out more money in scholarships and enhance some of our other programs."

"We're honored to provide support to LULAC through the donation of our hottest new car, the Mazda Protegé5," said Jay



Mazda representative Sandra Gonzalez, LULAC Fiscal Officer Carolina Muñoz, National President Rick Dovalina, Auditor Dan Painter, and National Treasurer Hector Flores observe as the winning name is read in the Mazda raffle.

Amestoy, Vice President of Public & Government Affairs for Mazda North American Operations. "LULAC and Mazda make a great fit and we're looking forward to a long and prosperous relationship."

"First of all, I want to give all the thanks and glory to God," said Lara. "I also want to thank Mazda and LULAC for not only sup-

porting the Hispanic community, but for giving me the best Christmas present ever."

Lara is a 33-year-old single parent with two children. He purchased a single \$5 ticket from LULAC Council 4482 in San Antonio. He will be accompanied by National President Rick Dovalina to a Mazda dealership in San Antonio to receive his new vehicle.

American Family Ad

ANNOUNCING THE LULAC NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND



The LULAC National Educational Service Centers (LNESEC) are awarding scholarships to deserving Hispanic students who are in college or will be enrolling in college next fall. Hispanic students who have excelled academically and who demonstrate need, leadership, and a commitment to their community are encouraged to apply.

LNESEC is pleased to extend an invitation to all LULAC Councils to participate in the LNSF matching funds program. Partnership Agreements will be available in January for the year 2002.

Please contact Carlos Zapata, Scholarship Administrator if your council did not participate in the LNSF matching funds program last year and would like to do so in 2002. We ask that you please do so in writing at: LNESEC, 2000 "L" St., NW, Ste. 610, Washington, DC, 20036, or via e-mail at: LNESECaward@aol.com.

APPLICATION PROCESS: LULAC Councils must be in good standing with the LULAC National Office in order to participate in the 2002 LNSF matching funds program. Your council must complete the Partnership Agreement (parts A&B) and return it along with your local funds to the LNESEC National Office by **March 1**. Students interested in applying for an LNSF scholarship must first contact (you) the local LULAC Council to request a scholarship application. The deadline for students applying to the program is **March 31, 2002**. Councils must turn in the student recipient report (part C&D) along with the completed student applications to the LNESEC National Office by **May 1, 2002**. Recipient awards will be issued on **July 15, 2002 and January 15, 2003**.

LNESEC
*LULAC National Educational
Service Centers, Inc.*



LULAC Partners with University of Texas System, Creates Youth Leadership Academy

Texas LULAC and the University of Texas System announced a new partnership to help Hispanic high school students get admitted to Texas colleges and universities on November 12, 2001. The partnership includes the creation of a Youth Leadership Academy at the University of Texas-Austin.

Fifty Central Texas high school students will participate in the Academy, which includes three weekend workshops at the system's Austin campus. Students will learn study topics such as public speaking, leadership skills, goal planning, financial aid, and diversity.

"The UT System is the first large institution that has really embraced this program and the potential it has to add to the campus," said Roseanne Ortega, LULAC Texas deputy director for youth.

Ortega initiated similar programs at community colleges in North Texas in 1994. Now the goal is to eventually include all 21 LULAC districts throughout Texas.

University of Texas at Austin President Larry Faulkner is excited about the opportunity to reach out to the fastest-growing segment of Texas' population.

"This university is supposed to be about all of Texas and it's supposed to be about all of what Texas sees in its future," Faulkner said. "Hispanic youth have an enormous role to play in the future of Texas for decades to come. The university needs to do what it can to help develop the talent that is in that group."

Arizona State Director To be Honored

Arizona State Director Mary L. Fimbres will be honored by the Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona this March and will be placed in their annual tribute book *"In Celebration of Women: Everyday Heroes,"* scheduled to be out in January.

The Women's Foundation is an organization committed to raising, managing and granting funds in order to help women and girls overcome economic, political, racial, gender, and social barriers.



University of Texas at Austin President Larry Faulkner at a press conference announcing a partnership between LULAC and the University of Texas System.

Mary was also inducted into LULAC'S National Women's Hall of Fame this past June at LULAC's 72nd Annual National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. She served as the co-chair of the national convention in Phoenix and was the key person in Arizona to organize volunteers and ensure the convention was a success. Her commitment to excellence and leadership skills proved invaluable as she was able to organize a successful convention in less than six months.

Mary's leadership, advocacy, dedication, and commitment have had a very positive impact on the Latino community in Tucson and throughout the state of Arizona. She serves on the LULAC National Board of Directors and she is the Board Secretary and Program Chairperson for the LULAC National Educational Service Centers' Board of Directors.

As a LULAC volunteer and member of the community, she has been recognized for her efforts. Previous awards/recognitions include the Latina Heritage Award; Volunteer Center of Tucson, Citizen of the Year; U.S.



LULAC National VP for Women Rosa Rosales (left) presents Arizona State Director Mary Fimbres with the LULAC Women's Hall of Fame Award.

Army Certificate of Appreciation; Honorary Army Recruiter; Knights of Columbus "Family of the Month" Award; F.B.I. Community Service Award; YWCA's Women on the Move Award; Pima County Supervisor Dan Eckstrom's Community Service Award; Mujer 2000 Rising Star Award; Arizona LULAC's Woman of the Year Award; HUD's Friends of the Community Award; and Pima Community College's Hispanic Student Endowment and Community Service Awards.



Leadership Director Making a Difference

LULAC's Youth Leadership Institute Director Alma L. Yubeta was recently recognized by Arizona's YWCA at their Annual *Women on the Move* Awards Banquet.

As the Director of the Leadership Institute, Alma is working hard to offer students alternatives in life and is helping in the development of the next generation of leaders. The Institute is designed to keep middle and high school students in school and prevent youth crime by focusing on personal leadership development. A key ingredient to this program is that students are able to enroll as community college students and earn valuable college credits.

Initially LULAC's agreements with the city of Tucson and Pima County was to train 300 students, but under Alma's leadership, the Institute surpassed all expectations and trained over 850 students.

Currently, Alma is also the Co-Chair of the 13th Annual LULAC Youth Leadership Conference. She has been a member of the conference's planning committee for the last eight years. She also currently serves as Arizona LULAC's State Treasurer and as the Director of Youth Programs for Pima Community College and LULAC Arizona.

Alma is a Nogales native and strongly believes in volunteerism. She has earned an Associate's degree in computer science from Pima Community College, a bachelor's de-



LULAC Youth Leadership Institute Director Alma L. Yubeta.

National Vice President Wins Valle del Sol Award

LULAC National Vice President for the Farwest Richard Fimbres received one of Arizona's most prestigious awards this past September. Valle del Sol, a Latino community-based organization, presented Fimbres with one of seven *Profiles of Success* awards. The awards annually honor the contributions Latinos make to the community and the state of Arizona.

"I was very honored to receive this award as it is a very prestigious award given out in the state of Arizona," said Fimbres. "I felt it was a very positive reflection on the volunteerism and the commitment we have made to achieve LULAC's goals and objectives in improving the quality of life for all our citizens."

Valle del Sol provides behavioral health, educational, and social services to the Latino community in Arizona. Fimbres

gree in business/communications/political science and Spanish from the University of Arizona, and a Master's degree with distinction in educational leadership from Northern Arizona University.

Alma's volunteer efforts have earned her several awards including LULAC Commu-



LULAC National Vice President for the Farwest Richard Fimbres.

also won the award for LULAC Man of the Year at the LULAC National Convention in Phoenix this past June.

nity Service Awards; two FBI Outstanding Community Service Awards; U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion Certificate of Appreciation with military coin; Outstanding Community College Alumni Award; and the City of Tucson's Citizen and Neighborhood Services Award.



L-R: Mr. Candy Saenz, LULAC District 7 Director and President/CEO of South Bay Latino Chamber of Commerce (SBLCC); Honorable Janice Hahn, Councilwoman, 15th District, Los Angeles, CA, and founding board member of the SBLCC; Dr. Juan Hernández, Director of Mexicans Living Abroad and Mexican Americans for the Mexican Government; and Mr. Trini Jimenez ESQ., LULAC Lennox Council Member and SBLCC board member.



News From Around the League



We Will Miss You!

LULAC District III of North Texas recently sponsored a farewell party for Dr. Corina Gardea. Dr. Gardea has been instrumental in the founding of the LNESc Center in Dallas and as a supervisor of the “Rising Star” program sponsored by the Dallas County Community College District. She is leaving for Phoenix, AZ, where she has been named president of Maricopa County Community College. She will be missed by her friends and associates from LULAC.

L-R: Roman Palomares, Past Texas State Director; Adrian Rodriguez, Texas District III Director; Dr. Corina Gardea; Rey de los Santos, Dallas LNESc Director; and Hector Flores, LULAC National Treasurer.

LULAC Goes to Tijuana

LULAC was well represented at a recent conference sponsored by the Mexican government in Tijuana, Baja California. The Instituto Nacional de Migración held a conference to promote the “Paisano Program” that will help Mexican immigrants in both the United States and Mexico. LULAC was one of several organization from more than 30 states to attend the event.

L-R: LULAC National Treasurer Hector Flores, California State Director Mickie Luna, and LULAC Legal Counsel Joaquin Avila in Tijuana, Mexico.



Breakfast in Laredo

LULAC Council 7 of Laredo, TX hosted a breakfast in honor of LULAC National Treasurer Hector Flores on November 24, 2001. The event was held at the Cotulla Style BBQ House in Laredo.

Back Row (l-r): Conrado Hein, Jr.; Role Gonzalez; LNESc boardmember; and Roger Rocha, Texas Deputy State Director.

Seated (l-r): Pitin Guajardo, Candy Rodriguez, and Hector Flores.

Book Review

Mexican American Odyssey: Felix Tijerina, Entrepreneur and Civic Leader, 1905-1965

In *Mexican American Odyssey*, Thomas H. Kreneck not only traces the influential life of Houston entrepreneur and civic leader Felix Tijerina, but also shows how Tijerina's enterprise influenced and reflected the trends in Mexican American development during years that were crucial for the Hispanic community. Kreneck outlines a pattern of identity and assimilation that has been traced in broader terms by other scholars, who have called Tijerina's contemporaries the "Mexican American Generation."

Felix Tijerina was born in 1905 in Mexico, although he publicly claimed to have been born in Texas. He worked his way from busboy and waiter to owner of a profitable, well-known chain of Mexican restaurants. The story of his economic success parallels that of other self-made American business leaders. But his contribution did not end there. He was an active leader of local, state, and national Mexican American organizations, and in those groups he worked to advance the Hispanic community and promote social harmony. Moreover,

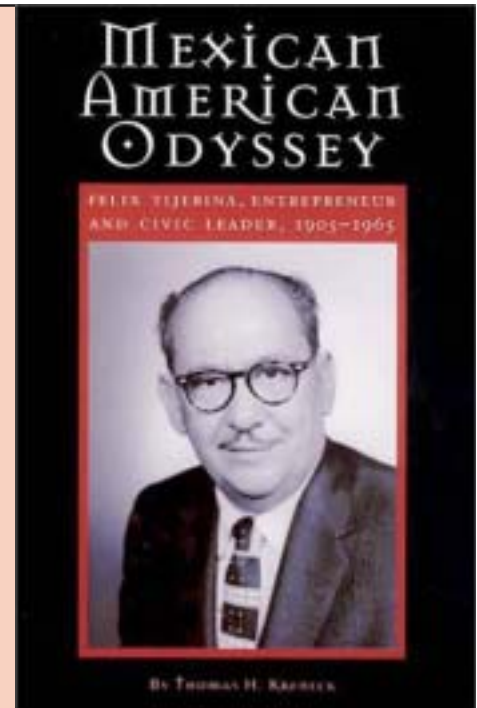
Kreneck demonstrates how Tijerina's life and efforts symbolized the history of a people who, by the time Tijerina died in the mid-1960s, were no longer lost in a sea of voices and ineffectual.

Emerging as a leader in such mainstream groups and boards as Rotary International and the Houston Housing Authority, Tijerina was a pioneer in Mexican American interaction with Anglos. He was noted for his efforts on behalf of Mexican American education. While serving an unprecedented four terms as national president of LULAC, from 1956 to 1960, he launched an internationally acclaimed educational initiative called the Little School of the 400, to teach English to preschool Spanish-speaking children.

Through Tijerina's life, Kreneck illustrates the intricate relations between Anglos and Mexican Americans during the early and middle years of the century. He identifies both prejudice and opportunity in Tijerina's environment and analyzes the qualities that allowed the man to flourish within those circumstances. He also shows how Tijerina and his colleagues responded to the black civil rights movement that swept the South in the later years of his life.

Mexican American Odyssey thus portrays a significant individual and places him within a larger context as a member of a generation whose importance still affects society at large.

"The work is very impressive and will



be recognized as an important contribution, especially in the field of Mexican American biography," said Emilio Zamora, author, *The World of the Mexican Worker in Texas*.

THOMAS H. KRENECK is head of Special Collections and Archives at Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi. A specialist in developing local research resources, Kreneck founded the Mexican American archival component at the Houston Metropolitan Research Center.

Policy Briefs

Immigration Reform

The United States and Mexico resumed stalled talks on immigration reform when mid-level officials met on Tuesday, November 20, 2001. Creating a better situation for millions of undocumented workers in the United States was high on the priority list of both President George W. Bush and Mexican President Vicente Fox until the events of September 11, 2001.

Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD) and House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt (D-MO) also traveled to Mexico on Friday, November 16, 2001, to discuss immigration with President Fox.

"LULAC is pleased that the United States and Mexico are putting immigration reform back on the table," said Rick Dovalina, LULAC National President. "We realize that the events of September 11 call for increased national security, however we also have to

understand that hard-working immigrants should not be punished for the actions of others. Now is the time to revisit the talks begun back in August and come up with a plan to legalize the status of millions of immigrants contributing to our economy."

The United States could actually enhance national security by legalizing immigrant workers, who would be subject to FBI background checks. It would also allow the United States to more accurately know exactly who is in the country and eliminate those that pose a threat.

"If you legalize the status of undocumented workers you allow them to step out of the shadows and become regular members of our society," said Dovalina. "The country benefits because it knows who is here, where they are, and what they are doing."

Administration, Congress Announce Plans To Restructure INS

Attorney General John Ashcroft and Republican members of Congress are pro-

ceeding with two separate plans to reform the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Ashcroft's plan would separate the agency into enforcement and services divisions, but still maintain one agency. Congressman James Sensenbrenner (R-WI), Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, proposes to create two completely separate entities.

"We are all well aware that the INS has struggled to provide accurate and timely services to the hundreds of thousands of people seeking to become citizens and permanent residents, while increased funding for border enforcement has failed to alleviate the flow of immigrants looking for work," said Dovalina. "Any plan to restructure the INS must include adequate funding to the services division to relieve the backlog and provide the services that are needed. We are concerned that with national security being a high priority right now, funding for enforcement will be plentiful and services will remain the same or get worse."