LULACnews
Spring 2008

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SAVE THE DATE! LULAC HOLDS 79TH CONVENTION IN WASHINGTON, D.C., JULY 7-12, 2008
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LULAC Leads Efforts to Free Children Detained in Taylor, Texas

(L-R) LULAC’s Austin District Director, Rita Garza; LULAC’s National Treasurer, Jaime Martinez; LULAC’s National President, Rosa Rosales join hundreds in a march in Taylor, Texas, on December 16, demanding children’s civil and human rights. of the prisoners being kept there. People brought hundreds of toys for families with kids kept in Hutto’s detention center.

One-year subscription price is $24. Single copies are $4.50. LULAC members receive a complimentary subscription. The publication 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 LULAC News are available by contacting the LULAC National Office in Washington, DC, at (202) 833-6130.
A MESSAGE From the President

As the 2008 presidential election draws near, LULAC has issued the LULAC Challenge to the two major party candidates, asking them to state their positions on the top 10 issues of importance to Hispanic Americans. We will publish their responses in the next issue of LULAC News. Leading topics include immigration, health care, housing, education and the war in Iraq. We hope that you will study carefully the candidates’ responses before casting your vote.

LULAC has also formed the “LULAC Voter 2008 (Vota Por Tu Futuro)” campaign with Telemundo and Comcast to boost turnout at the ballot box. Hispanic Americans have a long way to go to reach full voting potential in order to make a decisive difference in presidential elections. I hope that Latinos will vote in all elections, not just national ones as the right to vote is perhaps the most important right we have as citizens. Let us never forget this right was won through personal sacrifice by many Latinos and others to ensure we strengthen our great democratic form of government.

Not only must we participate in elections, we must also stay informed of what our political leaders are doing and demand accountability. We must remind our leaders at all levels that they must consider the Latino voice in all of their decisions, from legislation to political appointments.

One of the ways we can have a real impact in our communities is to regularly write and call our representatives in Congress to insist that they pass legislation that positively affects Latinos. LULAC was disappointed that Congress was unable to pass a fair and just comprehensive immigration bill in 2007. We must do better this year in advancing immigration reform.

Many exciting things are happening with LULAC around the country this year. For example, LULAC has been working to provide access to state-of-the-art computer technologies enabling Hispanic Americans to fully participate in the digital age. The Empower Hispanic America With Technology initiative funded by AT&T supporting over 50 computer laboratories in Hispanic communities across the country.

All LULAC councils celebrated the 79th anniversary of our organization on Feb. 17. We look to many more years of success with an ever stronger and more active membership as the Hispanic American community as it continues to grow and play a larger role in American society.

On February 27th we held our annual Legislative Awards Gala in Washington, D.C., honoring congressional leaders who have been especially helpful in promoting our legislative goals. Thank you to all who also participated in the LULAC/MALDEF Policy Summit with us and made visits to congressional offices to discuss key issues.

I am especially excited about our national convention which this year will be held in Washington, D.C., July 7-12. It is especially appropriate to hold our convention in the nation’s capital during this important presidential election year as it promises to be one of our best yet with many important speakers, insightful workshops and top-notch entertainment. We hope that all of you will be able to attend and celebrate LULAC’s 79th year of serving the Hispanic American community.

In closing, I offer my sincerest thanks to the entire membership for all your endeavors in helping Latinos to achieve a better quality of life.

Rosa Rosales
LULAC National President
Americans are beginning the weighty process of selecting their next president as states start to hold caucuses and primaries to choose the Republican and Democratic party nominees for the general election on Nov. 4, 2008.

Perhaps the hottest topic in the 2008 elections is immigration, eclipsing even the war in Iraq as volatile political issue. Many politicians were caught off guard by the vehement opposition voiced by many constituents to a comprehensive immigration reform bill in the summer of 2007. The bill, which set forth a process under which millions of undocumented residents could eventually gain citizenship, never came to a vote after conservative-led opposition to the proposal.

What follows is a summary of where the leading candidates stand on this issue of major importance to the Hispanic community. Note that candidates’ positions can and do change during the course of a campaign and that strong rhetoric used during the primary process often softens during the general election as nominees try to appeal to the moderate middle of the U.S. electorate.

Candidates usually tailor their remarks to appeal to their audience, stressing portions of their agendas that they think are most appealing to their listeners. Most of the positions cited below were taken directly from the candidates’ own campaign Web sites. These sites are meant to appeal to a broad audience and have the official approval of the candidates.

Note that presidential candidates from both parties have taken stronger stands in favor of stopping the flow of illegal immigration since the issue raised political passions at mid-year when reform legislation failed to come to a vote in Congress.

Republicans in general have opposed legislation that opens a path for legalizing some 12 million foreigners who have entered the country illegally or overstayed their visas. Their position is one reason a higher percentage of the Hispanic vote is expected to go to the Democrats in 2008.

President Bush, who courted Hispanic voters by supporting immigration reform and appointing the first Hispanic to head the Republican National Committee, proved unable to rally sufficient GOP support for the bill. His RNC chairman, Sen. Mel Martinez, R-Fla., resigned his chairmanship shortly after the bill’s demise.

Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., also stresses border security when discussing immigration reform. “We need stronger enforcement on the border and at the workplace,” he says. But his immigration position statement also calls for reforms that would encourage millions of illegals to “come out of hiding and get right with the law.” He supports “a system that allows undocumented immigrants who are in good standing to pay a fine, learn English, not violate the law, and go to the back of the line for the opportunity to become citizens.” He voted to take up the comprehensive immigration reform bill, against making English the official language of the U.S. government and for authorizing additional fencing along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., saw his support among Republicans plummet after co-sponsoring comprehensive immigration reform legislation. McCain, who received LULAC legislative service awards in 1998 and 2006, now says secure borders must precede comprehensive reform. “If we have learned anything from the recent immigration debate, it is that Americans have little trust that their government will honor a pledge to do the things necessary to make the border secure,” McCain says in a campaign Web site position paper. “As president, I will secure the border.” He voted to authorize additional border fencing with Mexico and for making English the official language of the U.S. government.

Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., was criticized by other Democratic hopefuls when she appeared to favor a proposal by New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer to let illegal aliens get drivers licenses. Sen. Clinton, who has spoken at LULAC conferences, says she supports Gov. Spitzer’s decision to withdraw his licensing proposal, adding that “as president I will not support driver’s licenses for undocumented people and will press for comprehensive immigration reform that deals with all of the issues around illegal immigration, including border security and fixing our broken system.” In 2003 she told a New York radio audience that the U.S. may have to adopt a national biometric identity card to improve security, and that “people have to stop employing illegal immigrants” because “they wouldn’t be coming here if we didn’t put them to work.” She voted for taking up the comprehensive immigration reform bill backed by President Bush and most Democrats and voted to authorize spending on additional fencing along the U.S.-Mexico border. She opposes making English the official language of the U.S. government.

Democrats on Immigration

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Republicans on Immigration

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Four Lawmakers Honored
At LULAC National Gala

Washington, D.C. - Four members of Congress were honored for their contributions to the advancement of Hispanic issues Feb. 27 at LULAC’s 11th annual black-tie National Legislative Awards Gala. Some 450 elegantly dressed LULAC members and supporters filled a ballroom at the J.W. Marriott Hotel to recognize Reps. Ruben Hinojosa, D-Texas, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., Joe Baca, D-Calif., and Lucille Roybal-Allard, D-Calif.

The gala, held in conjunction with LULAC’s annual legislative summit when members meet with their congressional representatives, drew coverage from the Hispanic and national media and attracted attendees from federal agencies, corporate sponsors and congressional staffs along with LULAC members from around the country.

LULAC National President Rosa Rosales welcomed attendees to the “night of celebration” and participated in the awards presentations to “outstanding legislators who help carry the banner of enhancing the role of Latinos in the United States.” She noted that all the honorees “have demonstrated a strong commitment to the Hispanic community and to America. We hope that in acknowledging their efforts we strengthen everyone’s recognition that Latinos provide a valuable and powerful contribution to this great nation: intellectually, economically, socially and politically.”

Rep. Baca was cited for his efforts as Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus; Rep. Allard for her work on health care and workforce training issues; Rep. Hinojosa for workplace protection efforts and Rep. Ros-Lehtinen for work on immigration reform, boosting the minimum wage and college aid programs.

LULAC Executive Director Brent Wilkes opened the program and Diana Diaz, Director of Corporate and Community Development, Ford Motor Company Fund, Raquel Egusquiza and former Vice President for Women’s Issues, Vera Marquez.

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LULAC has invited each of the presidential candidates to address the following issues of major importance to the Hispanic Americans. Their answers will be published in the next issue of LULAC News.

1. Do you support comprehensive immigration reform that opens a path to citizenship for undocumented residents? Are you for or against a guest worker program that includes legalization and worker protections?

2. Do you favor letting the children of undocumented residents receive protective legal status to pursue higher education or serve in the military?

3. Regarding Iraq, do you favor an immediate withdrawal, phased withdrawal or adjusting troop strength in light of factors on the ground?

4. How can the U.S. foster better relations with Latin America? How should the U.S. prepare for a post-Castro Cuba? Do you favor expansion of free trade in the Americas?

5. Do you favor continuing federal affirmative action programs? Should they be expanded, contracted or left as-is?

6. Do you support expanding federal affordable housing programs that help Hispanics and other lower-income Americans achieve homeownership?

7. Millions of Americans, including many Hispanics, do not have health care insurance. Do you have a plan to address this issue?

8. Many of our public schools are failing. What would you do to improve our schools and address the Hispanic student drop out crisis?

9. Are you in favor of declaring English the official language of the U.S. government? What is your position on bilingual education?

10. The nation has a mountain of unfunded Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security obligation, a burden that faces upcoming generations of workers. How will you deal with this problem that impacts Hispanic families?

**Northeast Corner**

LULAC National President Rosa Rosales received a proclamation from the Governor of New Jersey John Corzine. Governor Corzine will be appointing LULAC members to his commissions.

(L-R) Karen Wynn Freeman, National Assn. of Black Journalists; Maryanne Rooney; James Rooney, Executive Director Massachusetts Convention Center Authority; Gail Linehan, National Sales Manager; Toula Politis Lugo; Regla Gonzalez; Elia Mendoza and Rosa Rosales, National LULAC President.
Collin County LULAC Councils Fete Scholars at 2007 Banquet

The 13th Annual Collin County LULAC Councils 4537 and 4865 Scholarship Banquet with the theme “Avance con Education: Road to Success” was held at the Southfork Hotel in Plano, Texas, on Oct. 25, 2007.

Collin County LULAC has been a vital part in the life of many Hispanic students who wish to continue their education. Over the last 13 years, the Collin County Councils have awarded more than $200,000 in scholarships to promising and hard working Hispanic students in the community to prepare the Hispanic leaders of tomorrow.

Cecilia Prada, who has just completed her first year as President of Council 4865, told attendees that “we will work together to grow and encourage our youth to be a significant part of our community.”

The evening included a fundraising silent auction and entertainment by the Michoacan Mariachi. Master of ceremonies Bert Lozano welcomed guests and introduced the Plano East Senior High School Junior ROTC to present the colors and Danya Salinas to sing the National Anthem.

Keynote speaker Judge Lena Levario from Dallas noted the importance of higher education in achieving economic success. She provided an inspiring example for students in the audience through her own life story. She was appointed judge of the 204th Judicial District Court by Gov. Ann Richards in 1993, becoming the first female Hispanic judge in Dallas County. She later helped the city of Dallas make reforms in its police department. She was vice president of the Mexican-American Bar Association 1992-1993 and a member of the Civil Rights Committee for National LULAC.

Mr. Lozano presented LULAC Awards. The “Estrella Award” was given to Karina Trejo, District 3 Youth Director, for her strong commitment to LULAC. The “Educator Award,” went to the Plano Independent School District for its Computers at Home Program. PISD Superintendent Dr. Doug Otto accepted the award on behalf of the district. The “Civic Award” went to Texas State Rep. Jerry Madden, R-Plano, for his work in reforming the Texas criminal justice system. Community activist Elizabeth Villafranca received the “Community Service Award” for her effort to overturn the controversial ordinance approved in May, 2007, by the Farmers Branch, Texas, city council which prohibits renting apartments to undocumented persons.

By Olga Diaz (Ms. Diaz is a 2007 LULAC scholarship recipient.)

Council 650 Makes a Difference In Education of Austin Latinos

LULAC District 7’s Council 650 primary goal is to provide educational opportunities to Latino youth in Travis and Williamson counties in Texas. On October 30, 2007, LULAC Council 650 held its 3rd Annual Dennis R. Garza Memorial Scholarship Fundraiser. The scholarship fund was named in honor of Council 650 member Dennis R. Garza who served as President throughout most of the 1990’s and until his death in 2004. During Garza’s presidency, he began the Council’s efforts to raise scholarship funds and helped raise tens of thousands of dollars for scholarships.

LULAC Council 650’s Treasurer Richard Arriola served as the Chair for the Scholarship Committee and was assisted by other Committee members including Council 650 President Alicia del Rio, Vice President Lulu Flores, Bruce Barrick, and LULAC District 7 Director Rita D. Gonzalez-Garza. The annual memorial scholarship fundraiser was begun under the presidency of Rita D. Gonzalez-Garza, the widow of Dennis R. Garza.

Elected officials and candidates and local businesses serve as the primary sponsors for the event. This year, the event was held at Mexic-Arte Museum of Austin, one of the premier Latino and Mexican art museums in the country. The LULAC youth councils and young adult councils served at hosts at the event which was attended by over 200 individuals.

The guest speaker for the event was Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo. Acevedo was appointed by the Austin City Council in the July 2007 and is the first Latino Police Chief in Austin. He was formerly Assistant Police Chief with the California Highway Patrol.

This year’s fundraiser will enable LULAC 650 to award over $12,000 in scholarships by coordinating efforts with the Hispanic Scholarship Consortium. During the past two years, 13 college students have received $2,000 scholarship awards to further their education goals. Council 650 plans to continue holding this annual event and assisting students achieve their dreams.
The Clark County Board of Commissioners in Washington state on Oct. 23rd approved a resolution that deplores all hate crimes against any member of its community. This resolution underscores the issue of hate and bias incidents that have occurred in Clark County.

“We applaud Clark County for its commitment to its rich diversity and culture of all its citizens,” said Maria Rodriguez-Salazar National VP for the Northwest Region.

Mrs. Rodriguez-Salazar attended the Clark County Board of Commissioners meeting on Tuesday to thank the commissioners and various Clark County staff for their support and work in adopting the resolution.

In July LULAC, NAACP and Black Entrepreneurs of Clark County held a Human Rights Forum at which various community members identified the need for Clark County to take a stand against hate, bigotry and racism. A resolution was presented by LULAC at the forum and was supported to be presented to the Clark County Board of Commissioners. In August representatives of LULAC met with Clark County Administrator Bill Barron and various staff members regarding the forums participants input and the resolution. Clark County worked on the resolution for several months hoping to adopt a resolution similar to the LULAC resolution but that reflected the work the county has committed to in highlighting its rich diversity and culture of all its citizens whom reside in Clark County.

“The Washington State Human Rights Commission wholeheartedly supports the hard work of LULAC in its efforts to ensure equal opportunity and fairness for all people in the State of Washington. The efforts of Maria Rodriguez-Salazar and LULAC in Clark County and Vancouver are paying off in bringing all segments of the community together in this Resolution. An area that is diverse, inclusive, and welcoming is more economically vibrant. The future of the State depends on such efforts. We are confident that with leaders like the Clark County Board of Commissioners, LULAC and Maria Rodriguez-Salazar, that future is assured,” said Washington State Human Rights Executive Director Marc Brenman.
Photos from Around the League

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

Rosa Rosales, LULAC National President swearing new youth members of Council #1300.

(L-R) Mario Rosa, scholarship committee chairman/Council VP; Gregorio Chavez, State Parliamentarian; Chuck Oberlie, Michigan City Mayor; Trinidad Alfaro Council President. The award dinner dance was held on November 3, 2007 at Michigan City Indiana.

Jason Paul Riveiro, President LULAC Cincinnati with former Mexican President Vicente Fox.

LULAC Executive Director Brent Wilkes and LULAC National President attend Dialogue on Diversity Gala at the Organization of American States to receive the Corporate Award.

(L-R) Rev. Deacon Sal Alvarez; Timoteo Vasquez; Dave Cortese, Vice Mayor, San Jose, CA; Argentina Davila-Luevano; Carlos Jaureque; Rosa Jaureque; Angel G. Luevano; California LULAC Executive Board met in San Jose, on December 2-3, 2007. The board unanimously passed a resolution against restrictive Proof of Residency Requirement (POR’s) which discriminates against Latinos and the undocumented!
LULAC has joined a broad coalition of organizations working to secure affordable health care and long-term financial security for all Americans.

The campaign, known as “Divided We Fail,” is urging public and private policy makers at all levels to put aside partisanship and develop solutions to the nation’s most pressing domestic problems. LULAC’s participation was announced at its recent Veteran’s Summit in Orlando.

Major participants in the nonpartisan effort are AARP, the Business Roundtable, the Service Employees Union and the National Federation of Independent Business.

“We applaud AARP’s efforts to work with the Latino community and to increase services. I am hoping that this new partnership will lead to many other programs to serve our Latino elderly community. LULAC’s National Commission for the Aging will be there to continue to improve the quality of life for our elderly community,” said Richard Fimbres, vice president for the elderly.

“Our leadership believes that Americans should have access to affordable, quality health care and peace of mind about long-term financial security,” the campaign says. “We will ask our members and the public to demand solutions.”

The campaign’s platform includes the following declarations regarding health care:

“We believe all Americans should have access to affordable health care, including prescription drugs, and these costs should not burden future generations.

“We believe wellness and prevention efforts, including changes in personal behavior such as diet and exercise, should be top national priorities.

“We believe Americans should have choices when it comes to long-term care – allowing them to maintain their independence at home or in their communities with expanded and affordable financing options.”

On long-term financial security, the campaign declares:

“We believe our children and grandchildren should have an adequate quality of life when they retire. Social Security must be strengthened without burdening future generations.

“We believe workers should be provided with financial incentives to save, should have access to effective retirement plans, and should be able to keep working and contributing to society regardless of age.

“We believe Americans of all ages should have access to tools to help manage their finances, and save for the future and better, easy to understand information to help them increase their financial literacy and manage their money wisely.”

LULAC and other campaign participants pledge to “stand as strong champions for the new American dream – to build a 21st century America where these issues are paramount so that all people can have the opportunity for a prosperous future. We also believe that individuals, businesses, health care providers, non-profit organizations and government must work together to find solutions – personally, privately and publicly.”

Participants note that they “represent tens of millions of Americans and we believe that all of us share a responsibility for making our society work and restoring peace of mind to all Americans.

“Divided We Fail, but together we can do anything.”

More information about the campaign, including Spanish language text, can be found at www.aarp.org/issues/dividedwefail.
¡Sí CINCINNATI!

“To all my friends of LULAC I invite you to come to Cincinnati. This is the city of my roots, where my grandfather was born. This is a great city that welcomes people. It is dynamic and motherly. Hope to see you here in 2011, please invite me.”

-- President Vincente Fox

See Cincinnati for the 2011 LULAC National Convention.

Choose Cincinnati:

More Welcoming  Enthusiastic corporate, educational and community support from the people of Cincinnati!

More Energizing  Vibrant downtown offering a wealth of restaurants, shopping, and attractions!

More Compact  Duke Energy Center, hotels, shopping, dining all within 6 city blocks!

More Memorable  Countless entertainment options to be fondly remembered by LULAC attendees!

www.CincyUSA.com

D E L T A
Official Airline of the Cincinnati USA CVB
Four Lawmakers Honored
At LULAC National Gala

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Community Relations for Univision, a Diamond sponsor of the event, was Mistress of Ceremonies. Raquel Egusquiza, director of community development and international strategy for the Ford Motor Company, also a Diamond sponsor, was Gala Chair. Other Diamond sponsors were Bank of America, Comcast Corp., LULAC Council 1 and the National Cable & Telecommunications Association.

(L-R) Back Row: Vice President for the Northeast Toula Politis Lugo, AARP representative, Director of Federal Relations Emma Moreno, Vice President for the Youth Bertha Urteaga.

(L-R) LULAC Council 1 members from Corpus Christi presentation of a $50,000 check to LULAC National President Rosa Rosales.

During the gala, Patrick Gaston, president of the Verizon Foundation, presented a check for $1 million from the foundation to support the LULAC National Education Service Centers Young Readers program. On hand to accept the check was LNESC Executive Director Richard Roybal.

Henry Gorham, member of LULAC’s founding Council 1 in Corpus Christi, Texas, presented the national office with a check for $50,000 and they made a commitment of $150,000 to the national LULAC office. Other major sponsors of the gala were AT&T, General Motors Corporation and Univision Communications Inc.

ISSUES BRIEF

FAA Urges Hispanics
To Seek Controller Jobs

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is recruiting air traffic controllers in advance of a wave of retirements in its workforce expected over the next decade. Fanny Rivera, the FAA Assistant Administrator for Civil Rights, is urging members of the Hispanic community to consider careers as air traffic controllers. “I personally wish to make you aware of this exciting opportunity and reach out to you,” Ms. Rivera said.

The FAA employs more than 14,000 air traffic controllers as part of the safest, most efficient aerospace system in the world. They work in air traffic facilities of all sizes, guiding about 50,000 aircraft each day.

In the next 10 years, about 72% of the current air traffic control workforce will be eligible to retire. To replace those who retire and to meet the increasing demands for air travel, the FAA will hire and train more than 15,000 air traffic controllers over the next decade.

Ms. Rivera notes that prior experience or training in air traffic control is not required. Qualification for these positions is on the basis of work experience, college education, or a combination of work experience and college credits. The maximum age for applying is 30 and hiring must occur prior to reaching the applicant’s 31st birthday.

These positions are covered by the air traffic controller special retirement program, and specialists are subject to mandatory retirement at age 56. U.S. citizenship is required. There is an interview process, a medical examination that include psychological screening, a security and background check and a pre-employment drug test.

Once selected, each candidate will receive 16 to 18 weeks of training at the FAA Academy in Oklahoma City before being assigned to an FAA facility on a permanent appointment.

For more information about air traffic control and other FAA job openings, visit the agency’s Web site at http://www.faa.gov/jobs.
LULAC Joins Protest to Close Family Prison

What is T. Don Hutto?
In May 2006, the Department of Homeland Security opened its first prison for immigrant families in Taylor, Texas, 30 miles north of Austin. It is the first family detention center in the country to be based on the penal model, though plans were quickly made to build more.

The T. Don Hutto facility holds men, women (some pregnant), children, and infants, none of whom have a criminal past. Administered by the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), the country’s largest for-profit corrections company, Hutto lacks proper licensing and medical facilities, and has been proven to traumatize families.

This blog is dedicated to providing information on the growing movement to shut down Hutto and prevent this model of immigrant detention from spreading nationally.

What can you do?
For more information, contact:
José Orta (512) 365-2143 (Taylor) orta_jose@hotmail.com
Bob Libal (512) 971-0487 (Austin) blibal@grassrootsleadership.com
Antonio Díaz (210) 396-9805 (San Antonio) texasinidgenouscouncil@yahoo.com
Jina Gaytan (210) 884-8597 (San Antonio)

T. Don Hutto Timeline

- **Pre-1950’s** - The land Hutto is on was originally owned cooperatively by Mexican workers. Denied a place in town to park their trucks during cotton season, the workers pooled their wages to purchase the land. The land became a place to congregate and have fiestas. It eventually became known as Hidalgo Park, named after Father Hidalgo.
- **1980’s** - Unable to pay the property taxes, the workers donated the land to the Parish with the understanding it would be Parish property. However, the Church later sold the land for revenue.
- **July 1997** - CCA leases 64.5 acres of land on Welch St. in Taylor, Texas. This land will become the site of the T. Don Hutto Correctional Facility, named after the company’s co-founder.
- **March 2004** - CCA releases a statement saying it will close Hutto, citing low inmate demand in the region. This will become only the first of several times T. Don Hutto will be ‘mothballed’ as CCA seeks prisoners to house.
- **Summer 2005** - CCA announces its intentions to cease operations at Hutto, citing ‘lack of demand’ in its contract with the U.S. Marshals Service. Sets September ’05 as date of closure.
- **September 2005** - Hutto reopens to house inmates evacuated from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita fallout.
- **December 2005** - CCA lands a contract with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and announces it will reopen Hutto as an immigrant detention facility. They “expect the facility to be substantially occupied before the end of the second quarter of ’06.” (courtesy CCA website)
- **April 2006** - CCA and ICE enter new agreement, changing the class of detainees held at Hutto from adult men to families. Hutto thus becomes only the second facility in the country to house immigrant families, and the first in U.S. history to be based on the penal system. Williamson County will work as an intermediary in billing transactions between ICE and CCA, and will earn $1/day per inmate, or about $200,000/year.
- **December 16, 2006** - First vigil outside Hutto, protesting the detention of families.
- **February, 2007** - Release of Locking Up Family Values, the most complete account of family detention in the U.S. It contains the only published photos from inside Hutto (outside of what ICE has furnished).
- **February 23, 2007** - 9 year old Iranian-born, Canadian immigrant released from Hutto after being held without charge for over a month. His family’s plane, on its way to Canada from Central America, was forced to land in Puerto Rico. Because they lacked an American visa, the whole family is detained.
- **March, 2007** - The American Civil Liberties Union files lawsuits on behalf of 10 immigrant children, ages 3 to 16, challenging their detention at the T. Don Hutto facility.
- **April 30, 2007**. U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants is denied access into Hutto to assess conditions inside. “Pending litigation” about conditions was the only reason offered for the lack of access.
- **May 24, 2007** - CCA employee at Hutto fired after allegations of rape of woman held there. CCA claims the sexual contact was consensual, though hospital examinations are never publicly released.
- **June 23, 2007** - In honor of World Refugee Day, Amnesty International, an international human rights organization, hosts the 10th vigil outside Hutto. The largest yet, over 400 protesters- including Elizabeth Kucinich, wife of the presidential nominee- arrive, calling for the closure of Hutto.
- **On August 27, 2007** - The ACLU announces its settlement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), greatly improving conditions for immigrant children and their families in Hutto.
- **October 30, 2007** - Williamson County commissioners unanimously vote to continue the highly criticized partnership for the operations of T. Don Hutto Residential Center after amending a contract that promises to protect the county from liability.
Yolanda Santos Adams, LULAC Wisconsin State Director

Q: When and where were you born?
A: Born on the West Side of San Antonio, TX to Raquel (Ramon) and Joseph S. Santos. I was raised and educated in Kenosha, WI since the age of two, having attended public schools and Carthage College. I have 4 sisters, 4 brothers, 3 children and 5 grandchildren. You don't really want to publish the year I was born, do you?

Q: How long have you been involved with LULAC?
A: Received a charter for Council 320 in 1991 and was elected the first Council President.

Q: Who do you admire most?
A: The late Mother Theresa, Cesar Chavez and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Q: Who is your mentor?
A: A lady by the name of Sra. Irene Santos from Kenosha, WI (born in Crystal City, TX). She is the retired director of the Spanish Center of Racine, Kenosha and Walworth, Inc. whom I’ve known since I was a teenager.

Q: What made you want to get involved with LULAC?
A: I was a long-time member of the NAACP-Kenosha Branch and NAACP Wisconsin State Conference of Branches and wanted to have a “sister” civil rights organization to partner with. Thus came the idea of opening a LULAC council. The partnership between LULAC and NAACP in Kenosha and Racine has been a success in meeting a number of objectives and goals set by the minority populations.

Q: What do you think is one of the most important issues affecting Latinos today?
A: Uniting in support of immigrant rights. Latinos need to be in full support of the rights of undocumented immigrants rather than being a fractured group with some in support of a pathway to citizenship and others against. Until we show as a people that we (Latinos) are all on the same page, we will continue to have difficulty in persuading other ethnic groups that the discrimination and abuses happening to immigrants (both documented and undocumented) are human rights violations. Other issues are of course the achievement gap for Latinos, the economic conditions of our people, health issues and voter empowerment.

Q: What was your most memorable LULAC moment?
A: The first meeting of the National Board that I attended in Milwaukee, WI when Rick Dovalina was president. I believe it was in August of 2000. I was so impressed with the national officers and how they conducted themselves that it reinforced I had made the right decision to become involved with the LULAC organization.

Q: What are the activities that you are involved in?
A: In addition to LULAC (local, state and national level), I’m currently involved with the Urban League of Racine and Kenosha; the NAACP (local branch and state levels); the Wisconsin State Council on Affirmative Action; the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission; the American Association of University Women (AAUW); the Carthage College Education Advisory Board, the Kenosha Education Foundation and GOTV initiatives.

Q: What is an important leadership characteristic?
A: Accountability, first and foremost.

Q: What do you do when you are not with LULAC?
A: Work late hours; volunteer as an emcee for local Mexican Fiestas; and spend time with my grandchildren (I have 5 ages 2 to 18). I enjoy Tejano music the most.

Q: What is your message to those reading this?
A: The LULAC organization has the potential to be greater than any of the founding fathers ever imagined. We need a strategic plan to improve efficiencies, increase membership and grow the organization to the point of being able to offer start-up funds to newly formed councils.
Q: Where were you born?
A: San Antonio, Texas.

Q: How long have you been involved with LULAC?

Q: Who do you admire most?
A: Rosa Rosales.

Q: Who is your mentor?
A: Rosa Rosales.

Q: What made you want to get involved with LULAC?
A: I have always been involved in politics. My father was always involved in politics and he always taught us the importance of voting. He had a meat market and most of his customers were on credit because they did not have money. I learned to help people and be sensitive. They were hard working honest people and going through trying times. I learned that when somebody is down you help them. I got involved very young in politics and the community. I have been successful helping a lot of politicians get elected. I am busy with education and my specialty is helping non traditional students. I help them prepare for college. I met Angie in 1974 and then through Angie met Rosa as well and have been friends ever since. I have supported Rosa to be National President of LULAC because that was her dream. I have supported her since we first met. I admire her for standing up for human rights and Hispanics and she never tires. She helps people out in the community. She gets involved with immigration and trying to help our people. Coming from a family that had been involved in the community and politics and she was sensitive to the same things I was.

Q: What do you think is one of the most important issues affecting Latinos today?
A: Immigration and housing.

Q: What was your most memorable LULAC moment?
A: When Rosa won the presidency.

Q: What are the activities that you are involved in?
A: I sit on the National SER board and I am also appointed to the TAT program for north side independent school district. We help students that have dropped out and girls that are pregnant. We make sure every student fills out an application for ALAMO Community Colleges and is tested with the ACCUPLACER test.

Q: What do you do when you are not with LULAC?
A: I belong to a bunco club with ladies that I have known all of my life.

Q: What has been the biggest impact on you this past year?
A: Immigration and the children that are put away in prison and should not be there. Children should not be imprisoned.

Q: What are you most proud of accomplishing?
A: Assisting students to go to college.

Q: What is your message to those reading this?
A: Everybody should get involved in the community and help our young leaders that are responsible and educated. It is very important.
Q: Where were you born?
A: San Antonio, Texas.

Q: How long have you been involved with LULAC?
A: I have been a member of LULAC Council 2 for 46 years.

Q: Who do you admire most?
A: I admire my parents most for instilling in my two sisters and me the quality and character values of honest, good will, hard work, respect for others and doing good by helping others. We were encouraged to appreciate the value of life and make the most of the educational opportunities available.

Q: Who is your mentor?
A: I was very fortunate to have had many mentors. Joe and Mary Ortiz, my baptismal godparents, were very involved in LULAC. Joe was the first Rey Feo of the 60 who held that title by raising the monies for college scholarships in the San Antonio area. Mary was a LULAC women pioneer who develops LULAC councils in this area. She encouraged me to join LULAC Council 2. Ed Marceau, my confirmation godfather, gave me the opportunity to learn the electrical trade industry by employing me. This motivation guided me to be what I am today.

Q: What made you want to get involved with LULAC?
A: I became involved with LULAC through my godmother, Mary Ortiz. Mary convinced me that there was no better organization than LULAC, which had many parties, dances and pretty girls. Being a 21-year-old single male, how could I say no and not join. Actually, Mary wanted me to learn the true mission of LULAC and guided me into the largest and most active council in this area with an agenda and programs second to none.

Q: What do you think is one of the most important issues affecting Latinos today?
A: Latinos in the U.S. are affected by many issues. While the Latino population continues to grow, we have failed to gain voting strength due to so many who immigrate legally to this country and are not applying for U.S. citizenship. LULAC promotes citizenship and the right to vote. Without the power to vote, the organization’s strength and influence has been diluted by non-citizen membership and others who fail to exercise their right and responsibility to vote.

Q: What was your most memorable LULAC moment?
A: I was very fortunate to join LULAC Council 2 at a time when it still had its original founders, including John Solis, M.C. Gonzales, Alvin Padilla Sr., and local LULAC pioneers such as Raul Cortz, James Tafolla, Dr. William Elizondo, Peter Tijerina, Johnny Campos, Tony Cruz Sr., Mario Obledo and many others from various vocations and careers. But it was always LULAC’s great orator John Solis who made the many listeners at any LULAC function proud to be a LULACer and encouraged others to join our ranks.

Q: What is your message to those reading this?
A: I am a proactive community advocate who promotes LULAC and its purposes. If you are civic minded and willing to contribute your time and efforts to promote the general welfare of your community, join our membership. LULAC NEEDS YOU.
HENRY A. ECHEZABAL, SR.

Q: When and where were you born?
A: Ybor City, Fl.

Q: How long have you been involved with LULAC?
A: Since year 2000.

Q: Who do you admire most?
A: Anita De Palma and Matilde Garcia.

Q: Who is your mentor?
A: Anita De Palma.

Q: What made you get involved with LULAC?
A: Anita De Palma.

Q: What do you think is one of the most important issues affecting Latinos today?
A: There are so many issues and people really don’t want to address the real issues and the problems in Mexico. We try to ignore that point. We need to address problems in Mexico and have less people coming over. For some reason the leaders do not go to the source of problem. LULAC should have taken a position to look at the case of the border patrol agents, at least call for a re-trial, and that would have been beneficial and a fair position for LULAC.

Q: What was your most memorable LULAC moment?
A: Passing universal health care from the local to the state to national. It was important to me. Also, the resolution that allowed the Cuban families to be able to visit their loved ones in the United States, and in Cuba. It is important to keep in contact with one another. We have had an embargo for 40 years, and nothing has been resolved.

Q: What are the activities that you are involved in?
A: Rotary Club of Ybor City, Tampa, Fl. and President Centro Asturiano de Tampa.

Q: What is an important leadership characteristic?
A: To tell the truth the way it is, and not what some people like to hear.

Q: What do you do when you are not with LULAC?
A: President, Centro Asturiano de Tampa, Rotary Club of Ybor City of Tampa, Fl. and Round Table of Ybor City, Fl.

Q: What has been the biggest impact on you this year?
A: Being nominated to receive the Sam Leto Award by the Round Table in Ybor City, Fl.

Q: What are you most proud of accomplishing?
A: Passing resolution for universal health care and the resolution to allow families to visit Cuba and the United States at will.

Q: What is your message to those reading this?
A: Stand for what you believe in, and not allow to be intimidated.
LULAC NATIONAL WOMEN’S DEDICATED TO SAN ANTONIO’S ROSE

The Annual National Women’s Conference was held on March 14th and 15th in beautiful San Antonio, Texas. The theme of this year’s conference was “Today’s Women—Visionaries Shaping Our Nation’s Leadership.”

“As we celebrate our 79th Anniversary fighting for civil rights, Latinas have made tremendous strides in holding positions of influence within American society,” said LULAC National President Rosa Rosales. “I am humbled to be serving another year as your National President and proud to announce that women are serving in more LULAC national, state and local elected positions than ever before. We are confident that the future will see Latinas making greater inroads into the non-profit, government, business, and political sectors of our country, as our community begins to realize its full potential.”

Over 300 attendees participated in the three day session which included sessions on “Leadership Skills can and do Affect our Roles when Empowering Communities” with presenters: Nora De Hoyos Comstock, Ph.D., President/CEO Las Comadres Para Las Americas Council Woman, San Antonio District 6, Delicia Herrera, Amelia (Molly) Ruiz, FHA Account Liaison, U. S. Department of Housing & Urban Development Headquarters with moderator: Lupe Torres, LNESC-SA Advisory Committee Member, “Setting Priorities that are Important for your Mind and Body” with presenters: Dr. Norma Martinez-Rogers, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Celia Thompson, Warrior in Pink Recipient Powered by FORD, Honoree A. Camis Milam, M.D., Center for Health Care Services with Moderator: Yolanda Rodriguez-Escobar, Executive Director, Las Mujeres Project, “Opportunities Available for Entrepreneurs and Building a Successful Business” with presenters: Debra Dimando, Business Development Specialist, Small Business Administration Hada Maria Morales, Renowned Author Cristy Lopez, Ph.D., Financial Advisor, Smith Barney with Moderator: Janey Camacho, Treasurer, National Women’s Commission.

“The keynote speaker at the opening ceremony on Saturday morning was Diane N. De Hoyos, President of the General Motors Hispanic Initiative Team. Presenting on behalf of the City of San Antonio was Mayor Pro-Tem, Mary Alice Cisneros. The Women’s Recognition Luncheon keynote speaker was Chief Justice, Fourth Court of Appeals, Alma L. Lopez and Guest Speaker Raquel Egusquiza, Director of Community Development and International Strategy for Ford Motor Company Fund. This year’s honorees included Rosa Rosales, LULAC National President; Mary Espiritu, LULAC Deputy for Women, District XV; and Brianna L. Hinojosa-Flores, Esq., Mayor Pro Tem, Coppell, Texas.

“We are delighted to offer the LULAC National Women’s Conference during Women’s History Month which recognizes the achievements of women in all facets of life—science, community, government, literature, art, sports and medicine,” said LULAC National Vice President for Women Margaret Moran. She served four years as Vice President of Women for LULAC and was recognized for all her hard work and dedication to the organization at the conference.

LNESC Receives Grants totaling almost $11 Million from Department of Education Funding to Support 14 Programs in 11 Cities around the Country over 4 years.

WASHINGTON – LULAC National Educational Services Centers, Inc (LNESC) has been awarded 14 grants by the Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools and the Federal TRIO Program. These grants will support two programs: Upward Bound and the LULAC Mentor Program.

The LNESC Upward Bound will serve 350 Hispanic and non-Hispanic high school students in the seven communities, most of whom are from low income families whose parents are not college graduates. The communities that will benefit from these grants include Miami, Fla.; Albuquerque, N.M.; Corpus Christi, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio, Texas; and Bayamon, Puerto Rico. They have all been funded for four years.

Outreach services are provided at no cost to the participant. During the school year, participants benefit from tutoring, a complete career guidance program, assistance with college application and financial aid procedures and academic advising. In the summer, students participate in an academic experience on a college campus that includes a series of core and enrichment classes; tutoring; mentoring; and field trips. The summer component allows participants to experience college life.

The LNESC Mentor program will serve 350 middle school students in order to (1) assist children in receiving support and guidance from a mentor; (2) improve the academic performance of the children; (3) improve interpersonal relationships between the children and their peers, teachers, other adults, and family members; (4) reduce the dropout rate of the children; and (5) reduce juvenile delinquency and involvement in gangs by the children. This program will be offered in Pomona and San Francisco, Calif.; Colorado Springs, Colo.; Kansas City, Mo.; Dallas and Houston, Texas; and Bayamon, Puerto Rico. Program services have been funded for the next three years.

“We are proud to be able to expand our services in all of these communities,” said LNESC Executive Director Richard Roybal. “Education is the foundation for future success. With these program we’ll be able to help the students achieve the most they can in school, have them graduate, and get them into college, where they will be ready to succeed.”

Please contact your local LNESC center for more information on these and other programs offered in your area!

Center contact information:
California
Pomona - (909) 623-0588
San Francisco - (415) 333-1114
New Mexico
Albuquerque - (505) 243-3787
Illinois
Chicago - (773) 277-2513
Colorado
Colorado Springs - (719) 637-0037
Pueblo - (719) 253-6317
Pennsylvania
Philadelphia - (215) 423-4811
Missouri
Kansas City - (816) 241-3780
Florida
Miami
Puerto Rico
Bayamon - (787) 785-8031
Texas
Corpus Christi - (231) 883-5134
Dallas - (214) 943-2528
El Paso - (915) 533-4463
Houston - (713) 236-0620
San Antonio - (210) 226-2772

To learn about our programs visit us at www.LNESC.org or call for information at 202.835.9646
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 ________________________________________________

League of United Latin American Citizens

2000 L St., NW, Suite 610

Washington, DC 20036

Photo by Luis Nuno Briones

Hundreds of people along with LULAC National President Rosa Rosales and other LULAC members participated in the protest outside the T. Don Hutto Detention Family Center in Taylor, Texas, on Dec. 16.

(L-R) Salvador Cicero, State of Illinois Legal Advisor; Rosie Lambrinatos, Latino Marketing Representative for Giordano’s; John Apostolou, CEO Giordanos Enterprises, Inc. and Blanca Vargas, LULAC National Chaplain. LULAC/LNESC received a $10,000 donation from Giordano’s Enterprises Pizzeria of Chicago on Dec. 11.