



Texas LULAC
Quarterly Elderly Newsletter



Published By
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State Deputy Director for the Elderly

From the Texas LULAC Deputy Director for the Elderly

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Planning solidifies for the Texas Elderly Conference in Austin

During the recent Veterans Summit at San Antonio, the State Deputy Director for the Elderly, Julia B. Villaronga met with Mr. Richard Fimbres, the National Vice President for the Elderly to discuss the possibility of a National Conference for the Elderly to be held in the State of Texas.

This Committee decided on a two day conference, with the first day being a Health Fair for all Elderly in the Austin area, and the second day a conference/seminar to discuss the needs of the Elderly, and the development of a plan for delivery of these services.

Mr. Tafoya has coordinated with the City of Austin for a location. The Conference will be

at the Dove Springs Center (see picture below) at 5801 Ainez Drive in Southeast Austin on 24-25 October. Because of conflicts with the State Executive Meeting in August, we slipped the date to October. Since the Executive Board is again planning to meet on 25 October, we are trying to slip the planned date to 23-24 October.

The plan is to minimize or eliminate the cost to the Elderly participants in order to maximize their attendance and access to information and benefits. Contacts are being made to obtain support from the Community, and hopefully, this first Elderly Conference in Texas will be a success. The National VP for the Eld-

erly, Richard Fimbres, has been invited and we hope he will pitch in with some financial support.

For more information, call 888-CL-LULAC. If other District Deputy Directors for the Elderly wish to attend, contact Ms Villaronga at 1-800-KILLEEN or jvillaronga@clearwire.net



I can do anything I could at 20... it just takes me longer!



**Dove Springs Center
5801 Ainez Drive
Austin, Texas**

Constitution Changes to Establish Elderly Positions at State, District, and Council Level

At the 2008 National Convention, several proposed amendments were considered and approved. One of the amendments establishes Deputy Directors/Vice Presidents for the Elderly at State,

District, and Council levels. This will help in filling these positions and having elderly representatives at all levels of LULAC. The same amendments also establish the Deputy Directors/Vice President

for the Women, at the same levels. These changes MUST be ratified by the Councils. When your Council considers the changes, Vote to support the establishments of these positions.

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2008 State Convention A Success!

June brought us to the oil-patch, as we assembled in Odessa, Texas for our 2008 State Convention. The highlight of the Convention, as usual, was the election of the 2008-2009 Texas LULAC Board of Directors. Our elected State Officers are:

State DirectorJoey Cardenas III (Louise)
Deputy State Director..... Linda Chavez (Austin)
Deputy State Director for the Elderly (re-elected)Julia Villaronga (Killeen)
Deputy State Director for Women (re-elected)Jodi Valenciano Perry (Ft. Worth)
State Treasurer (re-elected)..... Rene Guzman (Corpus Christi)
Deputy State Director for Young Adults..... Claudia Sanchez (San Antonio)
Deputy State Director for Youth (re-elected) Shannon Rodriguez-Anderson (Plano)
State Youth Director (re-elected) Girsea Martinez (Dallas)
Immediate Past State Director Roger Rocha, Jr. (Laredo)

As you can see, we have “fresh blood” in the State Board, and our State Director has provided the guidance for the year to be EDUCATION and CIVIL RIGHTS.

I am proud to announce that the delegates to the convention selected my hometown– the City of Killeen to host the 2011 State Convention. You will be thrilled by the accommodations and our hospitality, and will enjoy the proximity to the largest military base in the United States– Fort Hood, the Home of the Brave! We are already working with the City of Killeen and Fort Hood to make this the best of the “bestest” Conventions. See you there!

Who is your District Deputy Director for the Elderly?

Although the position of Deputy District Director for the Elderly did not “formally” exist in our Constitution, many District Directors recognized the needs of these special citizens and established those positions. I am still trying to establish a network of District Deputy Directors, and as of today, these are the results:

District 1: ?
District 2: ?
District 3: Jesse Tafoya
District 4: ?
District 5: ?
District 6: ?
District 7: John Colunga
District 8: Mingo Marquez
District 9: ?
District 10: ?

District 11: ?
District 12: ?
District 13: ?
District 14: ?
District 15: Connie Rodriguez
District 17: Raul Villaronga
District 20: ?
District 21: Belen Gutierrez

Now having said this, this does not mean I have the contact information for all of these persons.

I ask each of the District Directors to identify their Deputy District Director for the Elderly, and provide information as to how I can contact them (e-mail, phone, address, etc).

Julia

Upcoming Events

- State Board Meeting in Lubbock (15-16 Aug)
- Texas LULAC Elderly Conference in Austin (24-25 Oct)
- State Board Meeting in Dallas (25 Oct)
- State Board Meeting in El Paso (5-7 Dec)
- State Board Meeting in ??? (TBA)
- State Convention in Dallas (May 2009)
- National Convention in Puerto Rico (June 2009)
- State Convention in Austin (2010)
- State Convention in Killeen (2011)

If you have events in your District for the Elderly that you would like to publicize, please write me and provide me the details.

Texas LULAC Deputy Director for the Elderly

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Sometimes it is wiser to remain silent and appear stupid, rather than open your mouth and remove all doubt!

VA News

VA VOTER REGISTRATION BAN:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is facing mounting criticism over its national ban on voter registration drives on its property with Florida Secretary of State and chief election's officer Kurt Browning being the latest to join the chorus of criticism. Two states -- Connecticut and Washington -- have joined California in asking the VA to do away with its policy. And Browning, while saying he is legally powerless to force the VA's hand, nonetheless thinks their stand is wrong. Browning, Florida's, said in an interview that he is yet to receive a complaint from either a veteran or a group complaining that the VA is preventing the

registration of voters in Florida. The agency has previously said it allows its official volunteers to assist residents of VA nursing homes, hospitals and shelters in registering when they ask for help. Tom Bowman, VA chief of staff, told the St. Petersburg Times in May that the VA needed to control access to its property so patient care would not be affected. On 10 JUL U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka, chairman of the Senate's Veterans Affairs Committee, joined senators John Kerry and Dianne Feinstein in writing a letter to VA Secretary James Peake asking him to allow voter registration on VA property. The trio also said the VA's insistence that the Hatch Act prevents voter registration drives on federal property is

This publication is a quarterly publication from your Texas Deputy State Director for the Elderly. It contains information of interest to the Elderly, and is an excellent vehicle to share experiences throughout the State of Texas.

If you have a story or anecdote, or have experienced something that you think will be of interest to the Elderly in Texas, please write me and give me the information to publicize.

This publication will also be a vehicle to communicate with the LULAC Deputy Directors for the Elderly, as well as those agencies that serve the Elderly in Your Community. Feel free to make copies and distribute in your community.

simply a misreading of the law, saying it simply prevents federal employees from engaging in political activity on VA time. They said the act doesn't prevent employees from assisting veterans in registering and said the act doesn't prevent any third party from a voter registration drive. Washington attorney Scott Rafferty has sued the VA over its policy. [Source: St. Petersburg Times William R. Levesque article 10 JUL 08 ++]

If you have relatives or friends residing in VA Facilities, make a point to register them to vote, and make sure they actually go out and vote!



NOTES FROM THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR.

In the past year I discovered that many of the Elderly have a lot of interests in Veterans issues. My husband retired from the US Army after 26 years of service, and he is helping me research and distribute information of interests to BOTH Veterans and the Elderly. If you would like to get frequent updates from reliable sources, contact me and I will add you to an e-mail distribution list that will provide you up to date, timely information about Veterans and the Elderly. Contact me at jvillaronga@clearwire.net
Julia