

Congressman Lloyd Doggett with Travis H.S. LULAC Youth: Carlos Cruz (sponsor), Isiah Patino, Congressman Doggett, Miguel Patino, and Juan Belman, Youth President—at Scholarship Fundraiser



LULAC is a civic service organization serving the Hispanic community.

Issue for Oct.-Dec. 2008

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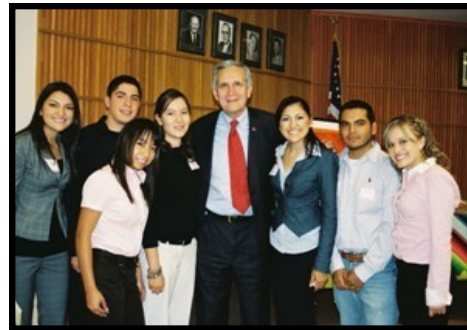
Rita Gonzales-Garza, District VII Director

E-Flash....News from LULAC District VII

League of United Latin American Citizens, Greater Austin

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 4TH ANNUAL DENNIS R. GARZA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

On October 23, 2008, LULAC Council 650 sponsored the 4th Annual Dennis R. Garza Memorial Scholarship Fundraiser, at the AFL-CIO building in Austin. Proceeds from this year's event, as in the past, are designated for Hispanic area high school seniors and college students. LULAC Council 650 has a partnership with another scholarship organization, the Hispanic Scholarship Consortium, to double the amount of funds raised through this fundraiser. At this year's event, five area community figures were recognized for their unique contributions. **Jill Ramirez** (see below, 3rd from left) was recognized for her career as a bilingual speech pathologist with the Austin Independent School District. **Sam Coronado** (4th from R.) was recognized for his achievements as an artist.



Members of the Longhorn LULAC Council, the LULAC Young Adults at the University at Austin, pose with Congressman Doggett at the Fundraiser

Judge Orlanda Naranjo (5th from R.) was honored for her service as the Judge of the 419th Judicial District Court, serving Travis County. **Jim Harrington** (3rd from R.) was celebrated for his work as the Director of the Texas Civil Rights Project. **David Rice** (6th from R.) was honored for his success as a writer, a mentor and a teacher.

Also pictured on left: **Jeffery Trejo** (extreme left), member of Council 650. **Rita Gonzales-Garza** (2nd from L.), District VII Director and Fundraiser Chair; **Teresa Perez-Wiseley** (extreme R.), President LULAC 650; **Alicia Del Rio** (2nd from R.) Fundraiser Committee.



LULAC DISTRICT VII SUPPORTS AUSTIN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

On **Sept. 9, 2008**, Rita Gonzales-Garza, District VII Director, and Angel Abitua, District VII Deputy District Director, were both present at a hearing held by the Texas State Board of Education.

LULAC District VII supports the creation of a proposed charter school in Austin. As envisioned, the **Austin Community School** would be a dual-language instruction school, at first offering education services for children age 4 through 7. Many of the professional educators who are organizers of this proposed school are also members of local LULAC Council #4905, Progressive Education Council.

LULAC District VII was present at this State Board of Education hearing where the **Austin Community School** organizers solicited the granting of a charter for their school.

Pictured below at the SBOE hearing from left, to right: **Rita Gonzales-Garza**, District VII Director, **Angel Abitua**, Deputy Director, **Ken Mercer**, member for SBOE District 5.



LULAC COUNCIL #4884 SUPPORTS REAGAN HIGH SCHOOL

LULAC Council #4884, the Professionals, continues to be supportive of Reagan High School, in Northeast Austin. LULAC supports the efforts the school is making to overcome low state academic performance ratings and dropout problems. Council President Ben Ramirez and council members have participated in Reagan HS community forums, awareness initiatives and student support programs. The school has a predominately minority student population, with Hispanic students now over 50%.

On **October 4, 2008**, LULAC Council #4884 participated, as an exhibitor at the **Hope Fest**, a community resources fair for the Reagan High School neighborhood.. Pictured at the Hope Fest, as

exhibitors for LULAC, from left to right, LULAC #4884 members **Van Savage**, **Valerie Castillo**, and **Eric Garcia**. Among visitors to the LULAC exhibit was State Rep. Dawnna Dukes.



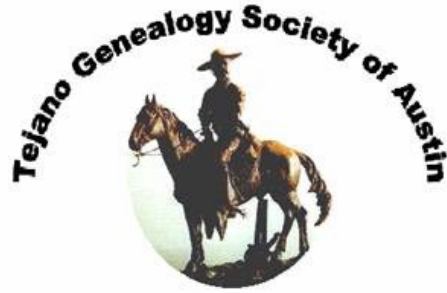
LULAC MONITORS AISD HIGH SCHOOL REDESIGN

The Austin Independent School District has implemented "High School Redesign" to better prepare its students to get ready for college and to encourage community responsibility. Since LULAC has a vested interest in these same goals, LULAC monitors this important initiative in our local schools. Pictured on the right, from right to left, Raul Alvarez, from the AISD H.S. Redesign program and Angel Abitua, LULAC VII Deputy District Director, at an October 22, 2008 Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce luncheon, where an update of the program at Travis High School was provided.



LULAC COUNCIL #4882 ADVOCATES FOR THE TEJANO MONUMENT

Council #4882 Vice President, **Dan Arellano**, is also the Vice President for the Tejano Genealogy Society. Dan made Council President **Gina Garcia** aware that the State Preservation Board wanted to place the new *Tejano Monument* on the “north side” of the grounds of the Texas Capitol, which has much less public exposure than the “south side” of the grounds. Together, the Tejano Genealogy Society of Austin and LULAC are advocating for the placement of the monument on the south side of the grounds of the Capitol. As Dan has stated, “Tejanos, along side Anglo Texans, fought and died in the Battles of Medina, the Alamo, Goliad and San Jacinto” for the liberty of the state of Texas.



*LULAC and the Tejano Genealogy Society of Austin
Advocating for the proper placement of the Tejano
Monument*

ROUND ROCK LULAC YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

LULAC is NOT just for adults. Hispanic high school students, as young as 14-years old, start learning about community service and the value of going to college, through the organization known as **LULAC Youth**. LULAC Youth is an affiliate of LULAC (adults). Find out more about LULAC Youth by going to www.lulac.org, then go to Programs, then “Youth.”

In District VII, by policy, there are only two goals for LULAC Youth: (a) developing leadership through community service and (b) helping our youth envision a future in higher education. Since 1995, here in District VII, we have had LULAC Youth organized at various high schools. Those schools have included Round Rock HS, Stony Point HS, Travis HS, Lanier HS, Manor HS, McCallum HS, & LBJ HS.



The first LULAC Youth Council in District VII was organized from students in Round Rock HS in 1995. It was called Round Rock LULAC Youth. In 2003, Round Rock LULAC Youth became a campus organization at both RR HS and Stony Point HS, thereby including members from both high schools for one organization.

Throughout the years, RR LULAC Youth has won 5 state and 3 national awards. Since 1995, several hundred Hispanic high school students in Round Rock have learned the lesson of giving back to their community. Throughout the years, many have aspired to enroll in higher education and many have achieved that goal. Many have continued to pursue community service in college, becoming active, engaged citizens and dutiful voters.

What the LULAC Youth program is accomplishing for its members today is part and parcel of the mission the founding fathers of the LULAC organization had almost 80 years ago. That mission included having as many Hispanics as possible becoming proud and productive American citizens.

As an example of Round Rock LULAC Youth being active in community service, pictured on the left is a visit of RR LULAC Youth to *The Cottages*, a nursing home for the elderly stricken with dementia. On Dec. 3, 2008, members of RR LULAC Youth volunteer for training at *The Cottages*. Ms. Cheryl Lewis, nursing home activities director, is in the background.

LULAC STATE BOARD MEETING IN EL PASO

Angel Abitua, District VII Deputy Director, represented the District at the LULAC State Board Meeting in El Paso on December 6, 2008. The Texas LULAC State Board is composed of state-wide elected officers and the various district directors from throughout the state.

At the local level, a minimum of 10 people can organized a LULAC council. The President of the local council also serves on the board of the District Office. The District Office is headed by the elected District Director, who serves as the official spokesperson for the councils in his or her district. The District Director serves on the Texas State Board. The State Board is headed by the elected State Director. The current State Director is **Joey Cardenas**, a 37 year old educator from Victoria,, Texas.

The mayor of El Paso personally welcomed the State Board to El Paso. **John Cook** is known as the "Singing Mayor of El Paso." He performed for the Board with his guitar and a song.

The meeting was hosted by LULAC District IV, headed by Ms. **Elvia Hernandez**, who is the local District Director.

Pictured below, at the State Board Meeting in El Paso: From Left to Right, **Brent Wilkes**, LULAC National Executive Director; **Elvia Hernandez**, District IV Director; **John Cook**, Mayor of El Paso; **Rosa Rosales**, LULAC National President,; and **Joey Cardenas**, Texas State Director.



COUNCIL #4925 HOSTS A HOLIDAY SOCIAL FOR DISTRICT VII

Council #4925, the St. Edwards University Young Adults, hosted a Holiday Social for District VII on December 12, at the University. The event was organized by Michelle Razo, President of LULAC #4925. Michelle is originally from El Paso.

Pictured on right, some of the LULAC members at the Holiday Social. Michelle Razo is 4th from the right.



LULAC District VII is getting ready for two New Years—2009 AND 2010

To become part of LULAC in Greater Austin, please call Angel Abitua, District Organizer, at 512/699-0944

LULAC DISTRICT VII LOOKING TOWARD 2009 AND 2010

No other organization is advancing the interests of the Hispanic community, on a grassroots level, in Greater Austin, more than LULAC District VII, which is composed of 18 local councils. In 2009, District VII is committed to continuing to represent those interests. In 2010, the LULAC State Convention will be held in Austin, our Capitol city. The "eyes of Texas" will focus on Greater Austin, on District VII, in 2010.

