



**UNITED LATINOS**  
Promoviendo Acción Cívica

# Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 2014

## Board of Directors

*Newly Elected Board of Directors*

President - Mauricio Leiva

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Manny Hernandez

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.- Michael Orosco

Secretary - Sandra Miranda

Treasurer - Bernardo Buenrostro

Parliamentarian - Ronald Jimenez

Dir of Strategic Initiative - Arturo Aleman

Director of Events - Mauricio Leiva

Director of Media - Julio Gonzalez

Dir of Member Services - Nancy Fuguet

Congratulations to the newly elected Board of Directors. Installation of Officers occurred at the the New Years Eve Gala held December 31, 2013. The Board was sworn in by Justice Cruz Reynoso.

## Message From The President

*Mauricio Leiva*

Hello United Latino members and friends. As President of United Latinos-Promoviendo Accion Civica, I am looking forward to a productive 2014. 2014 is an election year, although there is no presidential election at the national level, our work as a civic organization is not any less important here in California. California has state elections coming up on Tuesday, June 3 for the Primary Election and on Tuesday November 4, for the General Election.

Every election year the United Latinos hosts two voter education forums, the first Voter Education Forum is scheduled for April 26, 2014 at the Alumni Center at California State University Sacramento from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Why are these forums important, you may ask? And why should I attend? These forums are a means by which the United Latinos organization presents to you an opportunity to meet the candidates for public office face-to-face, to ask questions about their platform, and find out directly where they stand on policy issues important to you. All members deserve sufficient information about the candidates to make an informed voting decision. Once elected, these officials will make many decisions impacting our communities.

Latinos can make a real difference in California. According to Governor Jerry Brown's new 2014 State Budget document, Latinos are projected to become the largest single racial/ethnic group in the state by March of this year, making up 39% of the state population. This does not automatically translate into electoral power because we as a group do not participate in elections as much as we should. In 2012 only 23.5 percent of Latino eligible voters turned-out to vote. If Latinos are going to chart the future course of California politics, if we are ever going to get our share of elected officials, or influence policies that affect our communities, we need to get Latinos motivated to go to the polls on Election Day. Politicians are ready to come to our Voter Education Forums and listen to your concerns; they are hungry for your vote because they know that the future of California politics will depend on the Latino vote.

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## 2013 Activities and Achievements

### 1. Strategic Planning

2013 saw the formation of a Strategic Planning Committee established to direct United Latinos in the coming year. Revisions to the Mission and Vision Statements are being proposed along with goals and objectives for the upcoming year. The Committee comprised Manny Hernandez, Michael Orosco, Arturo Aleman, Maurecio Leiva, Nancy Fugent, Bernie Buenrostro and Julio Gonzalez will present its findings at the March Meeting.

### 2. First Annual Scholarships



Thanks to the generosity of Maurecio and Priscilla Leiva, two scholarships were created to be presented at the 2013 New Year's Eve Gala. This year only one scholarship was presented. It was awarded to Ms. Italia Garcia. Ms. Garcia attends UC Davis where she is majoring in Political Science with a minor in Women Studies.

### 3. Special Recognition Awards

Special Recognition Awards were presented to Sergio Garcia, Nancy Fugent and Michael Orosco for their contributions to United Latinos and to the Latino community. The awards were presented at the 2013 United Latinos Gala.

According to the U.C. Davis Center for Regional Change, the California Civic Engagement Project Policy Brief, by 2016 California is projected to have a majority-minority electorate and non-Latino whites will fall below 50% of the electorate. Your vote makes a difference, let's chart the future of California together, the time is now.

We are excited at the prospects of your participation in these events. We cannot afford to stay on the sidelines and ignore the most pressing issues of our time. Let's make informed decisions and elect representatives capable of addressing the difficult issues such as gun control, immigration reform, education issues and the economy. These are issues that impact our community

Additionally, we have launched a scholarship drive to help students and we are planning some fun events this year, such as a wine-tasting fundraiser in the Summer, at least one trip to Reno, Nevada, a membership drive BBQ, and other events of interest to members of United Latinos.

2014 is a year full of promise; but we need your input and participation. The lines of communication are open and I look forward to a productive and constructive dialogue with all of you. It will be my pleasure to again serve as your president during 2014; you may contact me at any time at (916) 903-6788 or by e-mail at [Mauricio.leiva@live.com](mailto:Mauricio.leiva@live.com) or via our website at [www.unitedlatinos.org](http://www.unitedlatinos.org).

Respectfully,

MAURICIO E. LEIVA, President.



## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **Speaker Event at CSUS on March 26 Details to Follow**

#### **Voter Education Forum**

April 26, 2014 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Alumni Center at California State University Sacramento from

#### **Reno Bus Trip**

To be determined

Join us for a fun filled gambling bus trip to beautiful Reno, Nevada.

#### **Membership Drive BBQ**

To be determined

Summer fun and great food. Opportunity to learn all about United Latinos and join in support of its Mission and Vision.

#### **UL Speakers - Alexander Gonzalez**

March 26th, 2014 6PM Open Doors - 6:30PM Start Presentation

CSUS Alumni Center

#### **UL Primary Voter Education Forum –**

April 26, 2014 - Doors Open at 9AM - 10AM presentation till 4PM

CSUS Alumni Center

#### **UL Speakers #2 - Venue & speaker TBD**

August-27, 2014 - @ 6PM - Doors Open / Presentation 6:30PM

#### **General Voter Education Forum - Venue TBD**

9-27-14 - 9AM Doors Open / Presentation to begin at 10AM - 4PM

## Strategic Plan for 2014-15

by Manny Hernandez and Michael Orosco

The board of directors and several members of United Latinos met over the last four months to update the strategic plan of our organization. These planning meetings resulted in recommendations for an updated vision, mission, and key goals of the organization. Throughout this process, the directors and members received the excellent guidance and facilitation of John Ochoa. The planning group recommends the following as the vision, mission, goals and objectives of the organization:

### Vision

Full Latino participation in education, civic and electoral processes.

### Mission

To provide leadership on public policy issues, convene public forums to educate and engage Latinos in civic and electoral processes, and award educational scholarships to students.

Goal 1 - Conduct Educational Forums. The objectives with this goal are to conduct two Election Year Voter Education Forums and one Non-Election Year Voter Education Forums, as well as to conduct at least two Speaker Events during an Election Year and at least four Speaker Events during a Non-Election Year.

Goal 2 - Provide Educational Opportunities. The objectives are to award a minimum of four scholarships in 2014, to increase the opportunities for board members to promote and participate in Mentorship programs, to develop and implement a Student Advisory Council, to establish Partnerships and Networks to increase educational and employment opportunities for youth, and to establish working relationships with institutions of higher learning.

Goal 3 - Provide Civic Leadership & Organizational Influence. Objectives: The objectives are to create New Partnerships with other organizations that promote civic involvement by December 2014, to conduct by 2015 two Voter Education Registration Programs in partnership with other organizations, to Raise Funds for the organization, and to Affect Public Policy at the local, state, and national levels.

As you can see from these highlights of the planning process, there are many worthy projects being planned to improve our communities' civic awareness and impact. These activities, however, will only be successfully carried out if you become involved. As a first step, we ask that you join one or more of the committees that have been established to carry out our Strategic Plan for 2014-15.

These committees and their chairs are:

Educational Forums Committee, Mauricio Leiva  
Educational Opportunities Committee, Manny Hernandez  
Civic Leadership & Organizational Influence Committee, Arturo Aleman

## Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care

### REPORT AT A GLANCE

- Report Brief. What Health Care Consumers Need to Know About Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Healthcare (PDF) (
- Report Brief. What Health Care Consumers Need to Know About Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Healthcare (Spanish) (PDF)
- Report Brief. What Health Care Providers Need to Know About Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Healthcare (PDF)
- Report Brief. What Health Care System Administrators Need to Know About Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Healthcare (PDF)

Congress, in 1999, requested an IOM study to assess the extent of disparities in the types and quality of health services received by U.S. racial and ethnic minorities and non-minorities; explore factors that may contribute to inequities in care; and recommend policies and practices to eliminate these inequities.

The report from that study, *Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care*, found that a consistent body of research demonstrates significant variation in the rates of medical procedures by race, even when insurance status, income, age, and severity of conditions are comparable. This research indicates that U.S. racial and ethnic minorities are less likely to receive even routine medical procedures and experience a lower quality of health services.

The report says a large body of research underscores the existence of disparities. For example, minorities are less likely to be given appropriate cardiac medications or to undergo bypass surgery, and are less likely to receive kidney dialysis or transplants. By contrast, they are more likely to receive certain less-desirable procedures, such as lower limb amputations for diabetes and other conditions.

The committee's recommendations for reducing racial and ethnic disparities in health care include increasing awareness about disparities among the general public, health care providers, insurance companies, and policy-makers.

Consistency and equity of care also should be promoted through the use of "evidence-based" guidelines to help providers and health plans make decisions about which procedures to order or pay for based on the best available science. More minority health care providers are needed, especially since they are more likely to serve in minority and medically underserved communities, the report says and more interpreters should be available in clinics and hospitals to overcome language barriers that may affect the quality of care.

For reports and more information go to the following link:  
<http://www.iom.edu/reports/2002/unequal-treatment-confronting-racial-and-ethnic-disparities-in-health-care.aspx>

## **California Latino Leadership: Do We Need It?**

*By: Arturo Aleman*

There is a great misconception that Latinos are well represented because we have a substantial number of Latino elected Officials, nothing could be further from the truth. Latino elected officials, like all other elected officials, are elected to represent *all* the people within their jurisdiction.

Latino leaders are responsible for advancing the Latino agenda without regard of whoever has been elected to represent them within the halls of government. Yes, Latino elected and appointed officials can speak on behalf of Latinos, and sometimes *all* elected and appointed officials have the moral and constitutional obligation to speak on behalf of Latinos but it is the responsibility of Latino leaders to clarify the concerns and issues of the Latino community. From a macro perspective an elected official may decide that an action has merit but when that action has a deleterious effect on the Latino community.

Some Latino elected officials in the legislature today seldom consider the Latino perspective when making decisions. This is because we do not often hold "our own" elected officials accountable. I have heard elected officials say, "The issues of the Latino community are the same as those of the general citizenry." But, this is not always true.

Many times Latino elected officials begin their careers by working within the Latino community and soon forget who got them elected once the pressures of multiple constituencies are put on them. These elected officials later find it hard to return to their base and then are perceived as weak by other elected officials and as such become marginalized or co-opted.

There is no doubt that Latinos can and do work with other communities, and we should continue to do so without fear of losing our identity because of all other ethnic groups Latinos are the closest to the mother culture. Recently, Vicente Fox, past president of Mexico stated emphatically that there is no longer a clear border with Mexico, it is now a very fuzzy border where our language and culture have mixed to the point that salsa is now more ubiquitous than ketchup and where we put jalapenos on our hotdogs along with mustard.

But, it is important to remember that a statewide network of Latino leaders can more effectively address issues of concern with all elected and appointed officials when they work in concert and when they agree on the issues. A network of Latino Leaders can more thoroughly analyze and assess threats and opportunities affecting the Latino community and can then bring their concerns to the elected officials who will feel more compelled to respond to the Latino community as a whole. With the modern technological resources available this is not as difficult as it once was. As an organized community Latinos carry the promise of a more inclusive America whose ideals, but only if Latino leaders are ready to come to the forefront and to address their threats and opportunities to elected officials.

## Welcome Our New Members

Eric Dudash  
Danielle Schrednitz  
Tyler Isaksson  
Priscilla Gonzalez  
John Ochoa  
Jaime Ochoa  
Florentino Castellon  
Marbella Wands  
Jackie Sylvia Morris

## Become a Member of United Latinos

We hope that you will take advantage of the many benefits that come with your membership. Some of those benefits include:

- An opportunity to positively impact the Latino community through civic involvement
- Life insurance dismemberment policy (\$3000.00) provided through American Income Life.
- Access and participation in our Scholarship program.
- Quarterly community updates via our United Latinos electronic Newsletter.
- Discounted prices to our community events such as the Annual Membership Drive and Fundraiser, the Voter Education Forums, the Speaker Forums, and the Annual New Year's Eve Membership Recognition Dinner/Dance Gala and any other events the United Latinos may organize.

For more information about becoming a member of United Latinos go to the link below:

[http://unitedlatinos.org/membership/membership\\_e.html](http://unitedlatinos.org/membership/membership_e.html)

