



Newsletter

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Voter Registration – Lola Acosta

Message From The President

Arturo Aleman, Outgoing President

This is be my last message as President. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Prosperous New Year and to thank you all for your support and shared vision of United Latinos. We most certainly had a very successful year and I look forward my continued involvement as Past President on the UL Board.

I wish to express my appreciation to the many individuals who have volunteered to support the many activities of United Latino. I want to thank incoming President Julio Gonzales for his efforts with the Voter Education Forum and the many volunteers that made it successful.

I am especially thankful to or Secretary **Sandra Miranda** and Treasurer **Bob Clifton** for their steady work and contributions to our organization.

My special thanks to **Manny Hernandez** for his valuable advice and wisdom in addressing the many challenges and issues we faced during my year as President.

Everyone deserves to be recognized and I heartily apologize for leaving anyone out or not including your contributions. Thank you all for a great year and I look forward to an even more successful 2017 and beyond.



For more information about United Latinos, Promoviendo Accion Civica, go to our web site at: www.unitedlatinos.org or follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=sacramento%20united%20latinos>

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1 Message From The President

2-3 United Latino Activities

4-5 Articles

6 How To Join

6 Gallery

UNITED LATINOS 2016 ACTIVITIES

1. Our **voter registration** effort was phenomenal as we registered more than 5,000 Latinos to vote. In this effort we worked with the Cruz Reynoso Nonpartisan Vote Education Coalition and thanks to Councilman Eric Guerra we received a \$138,000 grant from Tom Steyer's NexGen Corporation to conduct an extensive voter registration drive that resulted in 43 hires under our 1099 process. Lola and Cheryl you really rock.
2. We had a very successful **Voter Education Forum**. We had the Mayor elect Darrell Steinberg deliver an excellent keynote speech and we had Congressman Ami Berra make a wonderful presentation. We even did something new and had Teatro Nagual present two skits related to voter engagement and civic responsibility.
3. We had an excellent **town hall** with Congressman (soon to be Attorney General) Xavier Becerra. We taped and he allowed us to use the tape for a recruitment video that has been very successful.
4. We became and continue to be very engaged with the **Sacramento City Community College** in their efforts to be an effective Hispanic Serving Institution. This coming year will see the fruit of that effort as we work with the SCCC to bring a 500 student conference to the college. Three of their deans attended our Membership drive and became members. Ron is the bomb!
5. We engaged with the **Sacramento Latino Roundtable** and made an impact there with respect to the many projects that are currently ongoing city-wide. Lola is a founder of this organization and we have been there since day one.
6. We delivered a one day conference on **Environmental Justice** and worked with the [Climate Change.Org](http://ClimateChange.Org) to ensure our voice is heard and will grow with respect to Environmental Justice.
7. The Student Development Council (SDC) activities engaged in are:
 - The SDC developed and printed specialized informational folders for Sacramento City College (SCC) on getting more Latino students to be a part of their STEAM programs and for community presentations; and
 - Held its first Matriculation efforts at SCC during their 100 Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, October 15th; and
 - Continue to meet with Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) Superintendent Jose Banda on a monthly basis to discuss various topics which include; Drop out rates and how they affect the student and the community at large, Matriculation (short and long term goals) 2017 Latino STEM Association's Interactive Conference, parent involvement and other related topics; and
 - The SDC is developing a School Superintendent Symposium outline with targeted school districts to discuss district issue and provide information sharing across county lines. These districts include Sacramento City School Districts, Twin Rivers Unified School District, Natomas Unified School District, Woodland Unified School District and Washington Unified School District. The first symposium will be head in late November; and
 - The committee welcomes new member Ms. Vicki Boyd. Ms. Boyd will conduct one-on-one meetings with high school students and their parents as part of the organization's Matriculation efforts; and
 - The SDC Student Liaison, Mr. Benjamin Ayala is preparing for speaking engagements to recruit high school students to college;
8. The **Environmental Justice Committee** is proud to announce that Mr. Vince Valdez has accepted the chair of this committee. Mr. Valdez is committed in environmental justice and has been working closely with The ClimateMobilization.org to educate the community on this issue.

The Environmental Justice Committee held a joint Global Climate presentation at St Robert Church on Sunday, July 10th. This effort was a collaboration with the Knights of Columbus Council #11724 and The Climate Mobilization.org. The event attracted approximately 50 people to discuss climate change as a real threat to the environment.

The committee will focus on State of California's 5 year drought and how it affects low-income Latinos and those that work in various industries that are directly affected by the drought.

2016 Articles (Articles are the expressed opinion of the author and not of United Latinos)

1. CALIFORNIA DEMOGRAPHICS

by Arturo Aleman

How California evolved into a very blue state

For the past 35 years I have heard Republican pundits talk about how demographics have changed California from a red to a blue state but I have yet to hear them speak clearly to the issue. Typically Republicans have missed the most crucial element of our shift from red to blue. The shift was mostly caused by Governor Pete Wilson. To this day Pete remains the catalyst for continuing the shift.

San Diego Mayor Pete was a right leaning moderate Republican who when he decided to run for Governor the second time decided to pick on the Mexicans. He worked on the propositions to eliminate bilingual education, he worked to diminish education for Mexicans, he tried to eliminate all services to Mexicans and he used Mexicans as the scapegoats for every conceivable ailment of California. It is no wonder then that a great majority of the Mexican population turned against the Republican Party. The fact is that Pete is so toxic in the Mexican American community that to this day the mere mention of Pete being *for* a candidate will insure that they will vote against him or her.

In the 1980's Mexican Americans in California were seriously looking at the Republican Party to meet their more conservative social needs. Rural Mexican immigrants tend to be more conservative in their social traditions. I recall clearly that George Deukmejian made significant inroads into the Mexican electorate which carried him into the governorship over Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley. Deukmejian had a flexible approach to the immigrant population. Incidentally, a population that brought California out of the recession in the 1980's through its aggressive house purchasing initiatives. On the other hand in the 1990's Pete did everything in his power to dash the aspiring

Mexicans hope for the future. He got elected but other than Arnold Schwarzenegger, another flexible on immigrants Republican, very few Republicans have made it to statewide office since. It appears that the stronger the rhetoric and strident the hyperbole against Mexicans the more likely the Republican Party is to go into the dustbin of history.

There is a deep misunderstanding and misjudgment of the Mexican psyche by Republicans that stems from their fear. By listening to the alt-right, which is a euphemism for the neo-Nazis, you can get a sense of that fear that is palpable. I do not venture a notion of why that fear exists but I know that it exists. That fear translates to mean acts of policy, political and real violence against the Mexican community. It is that fear that any casual observation will show is exploited by politicians who lack the moral fiber to push an honest conservative agenda. The under classes are exploited by the Republican Party by calls to the baser instincts of humankind because they lack the sophistication to understand that they are being exploited. But that fear mongering can only last so long before the lack of substance to their demagoguery are exposed. Then is when the people turn against them and look for a better alternative. It is the nature of Mexicans to endure and survive. Eventually their resilience wins and the changes are made without having to resort to violence or retaliation.

It is very telling that the bilingual education proposition of 2016 overturned the failed philosophy of 1990's monolingualism in the pluralistic society that is California. The anti-affirmative action

Proposition 209 has now become the foundation for actions against governments that would purposely exclude Mexican Americans and the courts have invalidated most of Pete's draconian approach to immigrants, who by and large carry the most prolific agricultural food basket in the world. It is undeniable that Mexicans come to this country to build wealth and the more wealth they build the better it is for our state and our country. Governor Jerry Brown has a profound understanding of this notion and has used it to improve the worldwide economic standing of California. That is why California went from the 11th most prolific economy in the world to the fifth largest economy in the world. Pete Wilson and the old guard Republicans have it wrong because they do not understand the changing demographics and blame Mexicans for what is wrong and not for what is right. And the rest of the country will eventually follow because it is not the rapist and criminals that will make America great, it is the hardworking quiet person who endures and perseveres who will make America greater than it has ever been. Because you can never eliminate the hope of people from all over the world who come to America for a better life unless you become completely un-American and become a dictatorship in which case everyone loses.

To those that seek a strong leader just know that strong leaders do not take long to wear out their welcome. Just ask any Russian, Iraqi, Syrian, Sudanese, Venezuelan or Honduran and soon Filipino. The sad thing is the misery that is unleashed on the patient under classes.

2. SOONER THAN YOU THINK

By Arturo Aleman

"First they came for the infirm and I did not speak, then they came for the trade unionist and I am not a trade unionist so I did not speak, then they came for the Jews and I am not a Jew and I kept quiet, when they came for me there was no one left to speak for me." Martin Niemoeller

A house divided against itself cannot stand. And so we stand at the crossroads of a crucible where we must stand united across ethnic and racial differences to work against the forces that would divide and conquer us or we will be crushed one by one. Steven Bannon, Chief Strategist for the President-elect (Pe) has previously proposed a "lebensraum" which was a euphemism for justifying genocide that was used by the Nazis of Germany during World War II. Bannon's proposal is to remove all non-whites to make room for an infusion of white Europeans and any remaining nonwhites will be the underclass slaves. It is as simple as that. It is not difficult to understand fascist because they are very up front about what they want and their tactics to accomplish their goals are very apparent.

I hear people calling on everyone to remain calm and to wait and give the Pe a chance to show us what he intends to do. I do not think that is a wise course but neither do I call for violence of any kind. Violence is the excuse that all fascists use to take ever more draconian actions against the people. And when there is not enough violence they will create it as suits their interest. Cesar Chavez, Martin Luther King and Mahatmas Gandhi showed us that nonviolence is an effective tool to achieve a long term goal. They prepared themselves and took nonviolent actions to ensure the righteousness of their cause. It is because of these great men that we have come as far as we have. Now we are called upon to do the same. A call to action requires that we assess our resources and to look closely at who is opposing us. We must find the similarities that bind us together and strengthen them so that we can act on a united front. We can and we must find likeminded people across the spectrum of America and come together to fight for equality, justice and compassion. We must condemn violence no matter its source.

I would like to call for a congress of the people of Sacramento Black, Latino, White, Jews, Muslims, Sikh, Hindi, Protestants, Catholics, Asian and Native American where we can meet and talk about how to work together to move our agenda forward and our agenda are the core principles of

American values. We want a nation of laws that apply equally to every person in America, from the Pe to all residents of this great nation. We do not need to make America great again, we are already great, and we need to make it greater! Every grand spiritual book calls for human kind to rise above the human condition and to provide a means for everyone to self-actualize and to be the best that they can be. They all speak to the need to care for ones neighbor as if he was ourselves. This is the best opportunity we will have to bring everyone together and see how we can work on our similarities for surely we can rise above our differences. Otherwise they will come for you and it will be sooner than you think.

3. **SIDELINES**

by Michael Orosco

On November 15, 2016 CNN had ex-Fox employee and conservative radio host Glenn Beck (A Republican Conservative) on its show and he stated that we all need to be concerned about Stephen Bannon (Chairman of Breitbart News and Trump appointee). In 2016, Bannon said to the L.A. Times "Breitbart is a platform for the Alt-Right." Beck stated that Richard Spencer (Intellectual Leader of the Alt-Right) stated "Our dream is of a new society, an Ethnostate that would be a gathering point for all Europeans...." he also has said they want to "partner with the government for sterilization of races." He went on to say, "That way you could enjoy sex. It's not like you are ruining their life."

I am in disbelief and in shock over these comments. Not a time to sit on the sidelines.

4. **LEADERSHIP**

by Arturo Aleman

Often it is not easy to be a leader, in fact frequently you are called on to take a different road where you are called upon to take on a problem that no one else will even venture to take. With that risk you sometimes are rewarded with a storm of criticism. But if your intent is wholesome your risk can be very rewarding in a positive way. This past year United Latinos has been at the forefront of several issues of which some have been very difficult and some have been very rewarding.

One of the issues that has been more difficult has been to take on the City of Sacramento in its hiring practices in a more aggressive fashion. The City has been remiss in the hiring of Latinos over the past decade to the point where the City has in my estimation broken the hiring laws of the state of California. A large group of Latino organizations confronted the City about the lack of hiring of Latinos at all levels and within all of its departments. It was United Latinos who clearly indicated the willingness to take legal action to rectify the severe underrepresentation of Latinos in the workforce. The good news is that the City has responded very well and has formed a Latino stakeholders group of which United Latinos is an integral part. We look forward to working effectively with the city to increase the representation of Latinos in the City workforce.

Sometimes we are called on to look at ourselves and to really see what we are doing and why and so it is for United Latinos. When we first started this organization we looked at our intent and why we should organize in Sacramento. The truth is that in 2009 we were faced with an inconvenient truth, Latinos were not participating in the civic arena because we were afraid to raise our heads above the horizon. The fear of participation was as unfounded then as it is today.

One example, and there are many, is that we refused to participate with the Mexican Consulate because we feared to be accused of allowing ourselves to be allied with the Mexican government and being accused of not really being American. We have, since the time that California was wrested from Mexico in the 1840's, been afraid of being called irredentist, which we seek to reclaim territory that we lost and are seeking to recover it. That somehow it is un-American to want all the

rights of full citizenship and privileges thereof because we may be seen as seeking to take back California. Yet, as a Latino, I have never heard one person say let's take California and make it part of Mexico. Yes, I have heard many a Mexican American say I am both Mexican and American and I am an intrinsic part of this land and as such I am entitled to keep my identity and to infuse the greater society with my culture and beliefs. There is nothing wrong with participating with the Mexican Consulate any more than it is for the Russians, Jews, Chinese or any other group to participate with their consulates in a free exchange of ideas and business.

That is why as a leader in the civic arena we must continue to work with every organization that shares our vision for a fully participatory Latino community. One where we work with others to protect the most vulnerable of our community regardless of where they originate. We must ally ourselves with the Mexican Consulate or the Jewish Community Resources Council or the NAACP or Asian Resources or any other group that shares our vision for inclusion and tolerance. That is why I look forward to the day when we Latinos in Sacramento can be as willing to take on leadership as Latinos are in Los Angeles and other parts of the state. I strongly believe that future crisis will encourage our young leaders to come forward and lead in the civic arena and we will be there to support them and the risk will be worth the reward.

5. **The International Implications of a Trump Presidency**

By Mauricio E. Leiva, Founder and Past President of United Latinos

To the American people I say Buckle-up; it is going to be a wild ride for the next four years. The unthinkable has happened; Donald Trump will be the 45th President of the United States, as illegitimate as he may be, he will hold a lot of power. Donald Trump is a sick man, he is a “Toxic Narcissist” as Bruce Springsteen put it, and he will cause a lot of pain for a lot of people not only in the United States but around the world.

I understand that Trump plans to go through with his threats of deporting undocumented immigrants. The real impact to our people in Latin America for example, will be to the families that depend on the monthly funds they receive from their loved ones working hard in the U.S. to support their families back in Latin America. To the Dreamers granted permission to come out of the shadows to study in American Colleges and Universities now also could face deportation, these are young people that will have a difficult time adjusting to life in their countries of origin because they came here as children through no choice of their own. **Bottom line is that this will not be a compassionate president.**

The International damage of the Trump administration could be alarming in the areas of National Security, International Diplomacy, Trade and Climate Change. This is an incoming president that knows nothing about government or governing. Trump does not follow norms or traditions or the law. He is starting out already in a corrupt fashion and he is filling the Swamp with alligators so he lied when he said he will drain the Swamp.

When he started his campaign in early 2016 I was in El Salvador, Central America and the local news outlets there thought he was running for president as a prank, no one took his campaign seriously, this is a President that is not well liked not only in the United States, he is despised all over the world except in Russia. God help us all!

It is time to begin the resistance to protect our rights. It is time to mobilize our people nationally, and to take our country back, whatever is left of it after the next four years.

God Bless the United States of America.

HOW TO JOIN US

United Latinos, Promoviendo Acción Cívica, is a nonprofit organization recognized as exempt under Section 501.c.3 of the IRS Code. Joining us is considered a donation and may be recognized as an exemption when submitting your annual taxes. There are three methods of making your donation:

1. By making a check out to **United Latinos** and sending it to: PO Box 22905, Sacramento, CA 95822.
2. Going to our website and joining through Pay Pal: www.unitedlatinos.org
3. Attending any meeting of United Latinos and paying in cash, this may require waiting for a receipt.

For more information about United Latinos, Promoviendo Accion Civica, go to our web site at:

www.unitedlatinos.org or follow us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=sacramento%20united%20latinos>.

GALLERY



UL Pres Arturo Aleman, Congressman Becerra, Priscilla Gonzales, Ami Berra, Francisca Leiva and Past UL Pres Mauricio Leiva

2017 United Latino Voter Education Forum



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