

LATINO ROUNDTABLE

Spring 2013 Newsletter

Creating Change and Empowering Our Communities



Mission Statement

The Latina/Latino Roundtable of the San Gabriel Valley and Pomona Valley (LRT) is an organization dedicated to the development of educational programs that will train leadership, advance participation, and increase awareness on key issues and policies affecting the Latino and Latina community.

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For more information about the Latina/Latino Roundtable and our events, please visit our "Latino/a Roundtable of the San Gabriel Valley and Pomona Valley" Facebook page.

Campaign to End Driver's License Discrimination in CA

For years, bills have been introduced in the California legislature to end discrimination against the undocumented in the issuance of driver's licenses. The latest bill, is AB60, introduced by Assemblyman Luis Alejo, seeks to eliminate provisions requiring "satisfactory proof that the applicant's presence in the United States is authorized under federal law" in order to get a California driver's license or state I.D. We are all too familiar with the harm this causes our communities: impounding of vehicles, misdemeanor records for driving without a license, a sense of vulnerability, and a

daily stress for the entire community.

To make sure driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants becomes a reality, the Latina/Latino Roundtable is busy organizing community meetings and forums, petition drives, and outreach to community organizations, religious centers, student groups and government officials.

Thank to grassroots mobilization efforts, AB60 was approved in the Assembly with a 55-20 vote and now makes its way through the state Senate.



Hundreds March on May 1st in San Bernardino



"We urge President Obama to use his executive powers and put an immediate stop to deportations."

-Jose Z. Calderon

Hundreds of immigrant rights groups, unions, and community-based organizations, led by the Justice for Immigrants Coalition, including the Latino Roundtable, marched on May 1st in support of legalization policies that would support workers and not further the criminalization of immigrants and their families.

The marchers and speakers focused on how immigrants contribute hundreds of billions of dollars to the U.S. economy and how they have earned the right to keep their families together and to receive back some of the benefits that they have already contributed. The marchers also called on President Obama to use his executive power to immediately stop the deportations and to support legalization proposals that will immediately lead to permanent residency and citizenship.

11th Annual Cesar Chavez Pilgrimage

Following in the footsteps of labor leader Cesar Chavez, hundreds of people marched in the 11th Annual Pomona Cesar Chavez Pilgrimage that serves to raise awareness about issues affecting the local community. This year's event highlighted the need for driver's licenses for the undocumented as well as putting a stop to the rampant violence in Pomona.

The event initiated with a brief spiritual ceremony in front of a 300-year-old tree located next to the Pomona Unified School District (PUSD) and was immediately followed by a march to Garey High School (GHS). The pilgrimage culminated with the planting of

a tree at GHS and a cultural festival that included food, music, poetry, and dance performances.

The proceeds gathered from the event allowed for the creation of two \$500 scholarships meant to assist and encourage PUSD students to attend higher education and engage in community activism. Thanks to the partnership that LRT established with students, parents, PUSD, local government officials, and community organizations, this year's pilgrimage was by far the biggest and most successful of all previous pilgrimages.



8th Annual Cesar Chavez Breakfast

As part of celebrating the life of Cesar Chavez and the many community leaders who have used their lives to empower others, the Latina/o Roundtable held a successful 8th annual Cesar Chavez Breakfast with over 300 participants.

In keeping with honoring those whose work embodies the values and practices of civil rights and labor leader Cesar Chavez, this year's event honored five exemplary individuals. The honorees for 2013 included: Josefina Flores, a long-time leader of the UFW's strike and boycott efforts who committed her life to farm worker organizing after overcoming wounds caused by a grower strikebreaker; Roberta Pearlman, a resident, educator, and leader in the Pomona region who is the President of the Pomona Unified School District Board of Education; Delfino Segovia, who was honored posthumously for his contributions as a teacher and mentor for 46 years and who connected his organizing efforts with civic, political and educational engagement for social change; and Francisco Sola, a founder of the Latino Voter Project that partnered with diverse labor, religious, and immigrant support coalitions to advance voter engagement and immigration legalization efforts. The event also awarded scholarships to four students for their exemplary practices in community engagement and social justice: Liliana Saldana, Edar Morelos, Vanessa Soria, and Eloisa Amador.



LRT Continuing Support of Pomona Dining Hall Workers



The Pomona College dining hall workers, on the day before International Worker's Day (May 1st), voted 57 to 26 in support of joining UNITE HERE, Local 11. The vote culminated an organizing campaign that, in 2011, had resulted in the firing of 17 immigrant workers by the college administration. The Latina/Latino Roundtable was part of a "dining hall in the streets" action in support of the workers on Cesar Chavez Day in 2012 and a recent rally supporting the workers before the vote. The issues of better working conditions for the workers will continue as the union and college administration begin contract negotiations.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Clinic

Following the release of the DACA application process on August 15, 2012, the Latina/Latino Roundtable was quick to organize and host forums, in which 1,000 residents of the Inland Empire attended the event.

As a follow-up, LRT collaborated with the Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Coalition, Asian Pacific American Legal Center, Russell Juaregui, and the Pomona Unified School District to provide free application preparation and legal consult to 75 families.

Through the clinic the following barriers to applying were identified: 1) lack of funds to pay application costs (especially if a person has more than 1 child applying or has a complex case that needs in-depth review); 2) concern around ability of DACA to be revoked at any time; 3) the need for continued education about the benefits of DACA to the community.



2012 Educational Forum on Ballot Initiatives

On October 10, 2012 the LRT sponsored an educational forum at Our Lady of Assumption Church Auditorium on key initiatives to be voted on at the November 6, 2012 elections. The initiatives selected for discussion would have significant impact on the Latino community. The participants had the opportunity to hear pros and cons on Proposition 30, the Temporary Taxes to Fund Education, presented by Elizabeth Ayala from California Partnership; Proposition 32, Political Contributions by Payroll Deductions, presented by Luz Bacio, lead organizer of the UFCW Local 1428; Proposition 38, Tax to Fund Education and Early Childhood

Programs, presented by Leticia Garcia, Fontana School Board of Education; Proposition 37, Genetically Engineered Foods presented by Madeline Rios, member of the LRT board of directors; Proposition 34, Death Penalty; and Proposition 36 from Jose Z. Calderon, president of the LRT. We also discussed Measure T, a measure calling for the Pomona City Council to be elected at large, from Kike Suarez of Pomona. After the presentation the participants had the opportunity to ask questions and to share their point of view about the initiatives.



LRT Campaign Against Measure T



During the 2012 election cycle, members of the Latina/Latino Roundtable were part of a coalition to stop Measure T—a Pomona city initiative that sought to replace the elections of city council members by district to at-large elections. The measure would essentially turn back the will of the people in Pomona who, back in 1990, after law suits were filed by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund and the Southwest Voter Registration Project, voted to scrap citywide elections in favor of single-member districts to bolster minority representation. When research exposed that the police association had given over \$50,000 for the passage of this bill and that they were affiliated with a leaflet depicting a white hand extended upward over brown hands reaching from below, a multi-racial coalition of community members and organizations held a press conference, walked door to door, and defeated Measure T on election day.