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Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO) Newsletter

January 2005

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Dear Jerry,

Happy New Year!

As we celebrate Martin Luther King Day, it is a great opportunity to reflect upon the vision, aspirations and action of Dr. King for our country. We must never forget his dream and continue to work towards a greater nation with equality for all!

We hope you find this newsletter useful and hope you will rise to the challenge of action that Dr. King demonstrated towards building a better nation for all of us.

Sincerely,

Jerry Gonzalez, Executive Director

• GALEO Elects New Board Members

December 27, 2004---City of Lawrenceville Council Member-Elect David Rodriguez, Luis Aguilar, Dax Lopez were recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials at the December 2004 GALEO board meeting.

Read More...

• Forty-five Georgia Counties see Latino Voter Registration Grow 100 percent

December 29, 2004 - A supplemental analysis of the Georgia voter registration database revealed that statewide Latino voter registration grew by 75% from January 1, 2004 to December 1, 2004. Forty-five Georgia counties saw Latino voter registration jump 100% during this 12-month timeframe. During this same period, statewide voter registration only grew 5.8%.

Read More...

Thank you to our 100 Founding

• 2005: The Year of Immigration Reform
Opinion Editorial
By Jerry Gonzalez

On January 7, 2004, President Bush declared that our immigration policy is broken. Since then, President Bush has won re-election to serve a second term in office and he has renewed his commitment to address immigration reform.

Read on...

• A Call for Leaders!

LeadershipPlenty Deadline Extended!

There is no lack of leadership in this nation, just a lack of opportunity for people to tap their leadership potential and use it to better their communities.

All are invited to participate in an innovative nine-module training program called LeadershipPlenty®, which will be held in Metro Atlanta and Athens, Georgia, starting February 2005. Applications are due January 28, 2005.

Please forward to anyone you think may be interested in developing better leadership skills or honing the skills that they currently have. You may also nominate someone to be a part of this leadership development experience. Be a part of the first GALEO LeadershipPlenty class!

More information and application available online...

• Reflections for the 109th U.S. Congress

Opinion Editorial
By Jerry Gonzalez

Two Latino U.S. Senators will begin work in the 109th Congress. Senator Mel Martinez (R-FL) and Senator Ken Salazar (D-CO) will join the 109th Congress and deliberate on several important issues. Some of those may prove to be very contentious, such as reforming of Social Security, judicial nominations, tort reform legislation and immigration reform.

Read More...

• "The Battle for Georgiafornia"

The Battle of ‘Georgiafornia’; In Georgia, Where Nearly 1 Million Hispanic Immigrants Have Arrived Since 1990, Xenophobic Hatred and Violence Are on the Rise

Southern Poverty Law Center, January 5, 2005

By Bob Moser

For the first time since the African slave trade closed down, the South experienced large-scale immigration by a “non-traditional” population in the 1990s.

Six of the seven states with the nation’s fastest-growing Hispanic populations from 1990 to 2000 were in the South - including Georgia, where the number of legal Hispanic immigrants swelled by 300%. And demographers estimate that the total number of Hispanic immigrants,
Other Links...

- Make a Tax Deductible Contribution to the GALEO Latino Community Development Fund
- GALEO Internships Available for Spring 2005!
- Previous GALEO Newsletters

including those who are undocumented, is one and a half to two times that number.

A telling statistic: Hispanic babies now account for 12.6% of all births in Georgia, where the official percentage of Hispanics was 5.3% in 2000.

The growth is only accelerating. In the first few years of the new millennium, Georgia’s Hispanic population grew faster than any other state's, and U.S. Census figures indicate that 102 Hispanics are moving there legally every day.

Read on...

- **NALEO OFFERS SUPPORT TO ATTORNEY GENERAL NOMINEE, ALBERTO GONZALES**

"While the nomination of Alberto R. Gonzales to serve as the next United States Attorney General is certainly a historic milestone for the Latino community, the members of our Boards, the NALEO Educational Fund and NALEO, today offer our support to Judge Gonzales based on his professional accomplishments, his record of service to the Latino community and his commitment to promoting opportunities for Latinos in public service. Our support of this nomination is viewed through the lens of the mission of NALEO as an organization and through Judge Gonzales' record in relation to our mission."

Read More...

- **Georgia House of Representatives Propose English as the Official U.S. Language**

Opinion Editorial
By Jerry Gonzalez

The first week of the Georgia General Assembly was historic. The Republicans have control over the House of Representatives, the Georgia Senate and the Governor's Office for the first time in over 130 years. One of the first orders of business was to adopt new rules, assign committee assignments and select office locations for all the legislators. However, the House of Representatives also made it a priority to introduce House Resolution #29 by Representative Amerson (HD-9) calling on the U.S. Congress to enact legislation declaring English as the official language of the U.S. government.

Read More...

- **Congratulations to GALEO Chairman, Senator Sam Zamarripa (SD-36)**

Congratulations goes out to Sen. Sam Zamarripa for being named by Georgia Trend Magazine as one of the 100 Most Influential Georgians!

GALEO also congratulates U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson for being named by Georgia Trend Magazine as the Georgian of the Year.

GALEO further congratulates other elected officials recognized as the 100 Most Influential Georgians:

- Thurbert Baker, Attorney General (GALEO Member)
- Sanford Bishop, U.S. Congressman
- Lisa Borders, City of Atlanta City Council President
- Saxby Chambliss, U.S. Senator
- Cathy Cox, Secretary of State (Friend of GALEO)
Thursday, January 20, 2005
Mexican American Business Chamber
Networking Breakfast Series
Keynote Speaker: Jerry Gonzalez, Executive Director, GALEO
Topic: "Public Policy and the Latino Electorate in Georgia: Why
does this matter to Latino businesses?"
Time: 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
Location: La Mansion Hall, 5522 New Peachtree Road, Chamblee, GA,
30341
Phone: (770) 441-7581

Join GHNet, ACLOPA and SHPE to Kick Off 2005 with a great social,
Thurs., Jan 20th, at Che Restaurant on East Paces Ferry. Time: 6:30
P.M.

Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Hispanic Day at the Capitol,
Thursday, Jan. 27th, 2005
Please contact Lauren Salas, lsalas@ghcc.org, 404.929.9998, for
more information.

Save the Dates!

- GALEO Membership Reception, Thurs, 2/17/05, 6:30 PM
- 2nd Annual GALEO Power Breakfast, Wed., 4/6/05
- GALEO Fall Fundraiser, 9/22/05

Thank you to our Members!

Senator's Circle
Kilpatrick Stockton LLP
Professional Association of Georgia Educators

Legislator's Circle
Juan Blanco
Hon. Tony Del Campo, DeKalb County State Court Judge
Lino H. Domínguez
Robert Mendez, Indwell Corporation
Felipe Yanes
Hon. Sam Zamarripa, State Senator (SD-36)

Upcoming Events...

- Shirley Franklin, Mayor of Atlanta
- Norman Fletcher, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of
  Georgia
- Karen Handel, Chair of Fulton County
- Eric Johnson, President Pro Tem, GA Senate
- Jack Kingston, U.S. Congressman
- Sam Olens, Chair of Cobb County
- John Lewis, U.S. Congressman
- Zell Miller, U.S. Senator
- Sonny Perdue, Governor
- Glenn Richardson, Speaker of the GA House of
  Representatives
- Leah J. Sears, Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia
- Calvin Smyre, State Representative (100
  Founding Friends of GALEO)
- Mark Taylor, Lt. Governor (100 Founding Friends
  of GALEO)
- Michael Thurmond, Commissioner, GA Dept. of
  Labor (100 Founding Friends of GALEO)

Thank you to our Members!
• **GALEO Membership Holiday Reception, 12/1/05**

**Read on...**

• **Ask us about placing an advertisement in this Monthly Newsletter**

Please ask us about placing an advertisement in this newsletter. We plan to have one ad per monthly newsletter. Please contact Jerry Gonzalez, GALEO Executive Director, 404.745.2580, or jerry@galeo.org for more information.

• **Tax Deductible Donation to the GALEO Latino Community Development Fund**

Make a generous, tax-deductible donation for increasing Latino civic engagement in Georgia!

Thank you for your support!

**Make a donation online!**
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