Greetings,

This newsletter is a long one, but it is full of information.

The 2005 Georgia Legislative session has now come to an end. Unfortunately, there were several measures that GALEO believes are not in the best interests of the Latino community. There was also a strong showing of several anti-immigrant legislative initiatives which we must follow closely in the 2006 GA Legislative session.

One issue particularly could use your help and immediate attention. GALEO along with the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO), and many other civil rights organizations, opposed passage of very restrictive voter access legislation, HB244. Governor Perdue has yet to sign HB244 and we are asking for people to call the Governor and ask him to veto HB244. The Governor may be reached at 404.656.1776. Tell the Governor that he should veto HB244 because:

- It will make GA the most restrictive state for eligible citizens to cast a ballot at the polls
- It will have a disproportionate impact on minority, elderly, rural, disabled, student and poor voters.
- HB244 is not needed as there have been no cases before the State Elections Board of voters attempting to impersonate someone else to vote fraudulently.

In addition, HR-256 was introduced in the Georgia Legislature last month. HR-256 is bad for Georgia. HR-256 takes aim at innocent children in our school systems. HR-256 will hurt Georgia businesses and hurt Georgia’s ability to secure the FTAA Secretariate. Please follow the links below to learn more about this anti-immigrant legislation.

GALEO is glad HR256 did not move out of committee this year. However, GALEO recognizes this legislation may move in 2006 as the state gears up for the elections. GALEO will be working throughout Georgia to draw attention to this legislation and other legislative initiatives that have been deemed anti-immigrant. In addition, GALEO will continue to draw attention towards comprehensive immigration reform. Stay tuned for details and for how you can make a difference as we go across the state to discuss immigration reform.

On another note, GALEO has begun LeadershipPlenty sessions across the state to encourage further civic engagement and active participation within the Latino community. These sessions provide the tools to become more effective leaders. Sessions have started in Atlanta with 20 participants and in Cobb County with 22 participants. Dalton has approximately 10 participants and Athens will be the next session to begin. Please contact us for more information or if you would like to support these sessions financially. Many of the participants have expressed great feedback and have started implementing their new skills in their every day work within their communities. Help us support these efforts. Pictures have been posted under our "Photos" section.

And finally, GALEO would like to congratulate our Chairman, Senator Sam Zamarripa for his leadership with international trade and his high profile
Thank you to our 100 Founding Friends!

NY Times: Illegal Immigrants Are Bolstering Social Security With Billions

AJC: Foes rip passage of voter ID bill

HR-256 Fails to Provide Solution for National Issue

Wired Magazine: La Vida Robot; How four underdogs from the mean streets of Phoenix took on the best from M.I.T. in the national underwater bot championship.

On the Hill: Congressman Tancredo on Immigration

A. Patino, GSU Undergrad student, "Reflections on the GA Legislature's Family Day"

Washington Post: Conservatives Split in Debate on Curbing Illegal Immigration

GALEO AND NALEO STRONGLY OPPOSE PROPOSED VOTER ID BILLS: Legislation Would Impose Unfair, Burdensome and Unnecessary Requirements for Georgia Voters

GALEO Intern Highlight! Aldo Lozano from Georgia State University

Thank you to our Members!

Upcoming Events...

The University of Georgia (UGA) partners with GALEO & other organizations for a conference on Latinos in the SE

GALEO documents comments at a recent Christian Coalition Conference

AJC Political Insider: Latinos weigh in on voter ID debate

Washington Times (3/21/05): Turn Back the Nativists

AP: Northwest Arkansas legislators offer resolution on immigration issues

Nuevo Impacto: GALEO Increases Political Presence in GA

Anavitarte Receives Ivan Allen Jr.

picture on the cover of this month's Georgia Trend magazine. (Click on the previous link for the insightful article.) In addition, we would like to congratulate one of our newest GALEO members with gracing the cover of last month’s Georgia Trend Magazine, Cobb County Chairman Sam Olens. Two months of back to back GALEO members on the cover of Georgia Trend! Doesn’t that encourage you to join GALEO with our efforts?

As always, we hope you find this newsletter useful and informative. Please stay tuned for our upcoming GALEO Power Breakfast!

Sincerely,

Jerry Gonzalez, Executive Director
Legacy Award

GALEO Congratulates GALEO
Board Member Luis Aguilar: Aguilar to Receive MALDEF Leadership Award

AJC-Employers like guest work plan: Proponents: Immigrants needed for some jobs

Thank you to our 100 Founding Friends!

AARP Georgia
Don Aldridge
Alston & Bird LLP
Altria Corporate Services, Inc.
American Blanchning Company, Inc.
AMERIGROUP Corporation
Attache Public Affairs, LLC
Alberto Bazan
Juan Blanco
Blue Cross Blue Shield
Briarcliff Pediatrics, PC
Victoria Chacon
Manuel Chavez & Susana Maria Chavez
Cingular Wireless
Hon.Terry Coleman (HD-118), Speaker, GA House of Representatives
Brenda Foye Cornelius
Covad Communications Company
Delma De La Fuente
Hon. Tony Del Campo, DeKalb County State Court Judge
Rocio Del Milagro Woody
Lino H. Dominguez
Chance Evans
Fannie Mae
Jane Fonda
Jerry Gonzalez
HCA-Hospital Corporation of America, SE Region
Heritage Capital Advisors, LLC
Hewlett Packard
Holland & Knight LLP
Kilpatrick Stockton LLP
Reed D. Kimbrough
Lanza Group, LLC
John M. Mallette, Jr.
Hon. Pedro Marin, State Rep. (HD-66)
National Distributing Company, Inc.
Dave L. Pearson Jenkin
Pfizer, Inc.
Professional Association of Georgia Educators
Norberto Sanchez
Service Employees International Union
Tony Sibert
Hon. Calvin Smyre, State Rep. (HD-111)
Lou Sobh
Hon. Mark Taylor, Georgia Lt. Governor Teamsters Local Union 728
Tenet Health Care Systems
The Coca-Cola Company
Hon. Michael Thurmond, Georgia Labor Commissioner

http://www.galeo.org/042005GALEONewsletter.html
Carmen Vega
Felipe Yanes
Hon. Sam Zamarripa, State Senator (SD-36)

Make a difference today! Join GALEO now!

New GALEO Members include:
Sam Olens, Chairman Cobb County Board of Commissioners; Myles C. Mitchom - Amigos; AmericasMart- Amigos; and Terry Easton.

Thank you for joining GALEO!

Contribute and Support GALEO!

Quick Links...
- Our Website
- Become a GALEO Member
- Contribute to GALEO Online
- About Us

Other Links...
- Make a Tax Deductible Contribution to the GALEO Latino Community Development Fund
- About HR-256
- Previous GALEO Newsletters
- NY Times: Illegal Immigrants Are Bolstering Social Security With Billions

As the debate over Social Security heats up, the estimated seven million or so illegal immigrant workers in the United States are now providing the system with a subsidy of as much as $7 billion a year.

Read more...

- AJC: Foes rip passage of voter ID bill

A broad overhaul of Georgia's election code --- including a provision that would require voters to show one of several forms of government-issued photo identification at the polls --- received final approval from the state Legislature on Thursday.

House Bill 244 --- which would give Georgia the most restrictive voter identification requirements in the nation --- now heads to Gov. Sonny Perdue for his consideration.

GALEO opposed this legislation and urges Governor Perdue to veto the legislation.

Read more...

- HR-256 Fails to Provide Solution for National Issue

Atlanta, Georgia - Feb 21, 2005 On Thursday, February 17, 2005, Georgia HR- 256 was introduced by Representatives Roger Williams (HD-4), Bobby Franklin (HD-43), Ronald Forster (HD- 3), Scott Martin (HD-3), Jeannette Jamieson (HD- 28). HR-256 calls for a state constitutional amendment to ban all public services to undocumented immigrants including all publicly funded healthcare and all education, including K-12
education. HR-256 also calls for greater cooperation between local law enforcement agencies with federal immigration authorities. GALEO believes that comprehensive immigration reform should be appropriately addressed at the federal level and does not believe HR-256 will solve our failed federal immigration policy. The U.S. Congress and President Bush should act and develop a solution and to consider our national security, to encourage and enhance continued economic development and to protect the rights and dignity of immigrants.

**GALEO appreciates Rep. John Lunsford for removing himself from HR-256.**

**Read more...**

- Wired Magazine: La Vida Robot; How four underdogs from the mean streets of Phoenix took on the best from M.I.T. in the national underwater bot championship.

> These students represent thousands of undocumented students across the country which have tremendous talents to contribute to our nation, if they are given the opportunity. GALEO urges the U.S. Congress to pass the DREAM Act.

> "And the overall winner for the Marine Technology ROV championship," Merrill continued, looking up at the crowd, "goes to Carl Hayden High School of Phoenix, Arizona!"

They hope to see all four kids go to college before they quit teaching, which means they're likely to keep working for a long time. Since the teenagers are undocumented, they don't qualify for federal loans. And though they've lived in Arizona for an average of 11 years, they would still have to pay out-of-state tuition, which can be as much as three times the in-state cost. They can't afford it.

And they're not alone. Approximately 60,000 undocumented students graduate from US high schools every year. One promising solution, according to Cameron and other advocates for immigrant kids, is the Dream Act, federal legislation that would give in-state tuition and temporary resident status to undocumented students who graduate from a US high school after being enrolled in the States for five years or more. The bill, which was introduced in 2003 and is slated to be resubmitted this spring, aims to give undocumented students a reason to stay in school. If they do, the act promises financial assistance for college. In turn, immigrants would pay taxes and be able to contribute their talents to the US.

**MUST Read more...**

- On the Hill: Congressman Tancredo on Immigration

For most Washington Republicans, a berating from Karl Rove is the stuff of nightmares. For Tom Tancredo, it was the best thing that ever happened to him. One morning in April 2002, the representative from Colorado was driving to work when his cell phone rang. It was Rove calling from the White House. The president's fabled strategist had just finished reading a Washington Times article in which Tancredo, whose political obsession is to limit both legal and illegal immigration into this country, had warned the Bush administration to treat border control more seriously. As usual, Tancredo had delivered his point in cunningly theatrical terms. "Unless we do something significant to control our borders, we're going to have another event with someone walking across the borders. Then the blood of the people killed will be on this administration and this Congress." The quote sent Rove into a hollering rage--"he was absolutely screaming," Tancredo says--that forced the representative to pull off the road for safety. Among other things, Tancredo says, Rove called him a "traitor," and, with an impressive literary flourish, warned him "never again to darken the doorstep of the White House."

**Read more of this insightful article...**

- **A. Patino, GSU Undergrad student, "Reflections on the GA Legislature's Family Day"**

...all the Latinos that went to the Capitol, including me, entered the building and began to call representatives and senators so we could express to them our preoccupation with the HR256. Most of the congressmen that responded to our call gave us their support (some more than others) and, in general showed disagreement with the resolution. Among these were Jil Chambers, Brooks Coleman, Chuck Martin, and of course, Pedro Marin and senator Zamarripa. On the other hand, we tried to talk with the representatives in the committee that that has been working in the infamous legislation. Bobby Franklin was the only one of them that responded to our call. I had the opportunity of talking to him in person.

When I told him that I disagreed with the HR256, he answered "Why do you support these criminals? The fact that they are here without the proper documentation makes these people criminals." Upset by his comment, I went on to ask him: "If what you say is true, are undocumented children criminals also? These kids did not choose to be undocumented, how can you deny them something as fundamental as education?" Evading my question, he just went on: "Illegal immigrants are criminals, and my main interest is protecting the people. We have to prevent such horrible acts as the one perpetrated yesterday." He was referring to the murder of Judge Rowland Barnes, committed by Brian Nichols.

**Read more...**

- Washington Post: Conservatives Split in Debate on Curbing Illegal Immigration

Republican lawmakers are headed for a showdown over illegal immigration, an issue that exposes a deep and bitter rift within the GOP.
The drama will unfold when Congress returns early next month and turns to finish an emergency spending bill to fund the Iraq war. The House version, approved before the Easter break, carries tough immigration restrictions, reigniting a long-simmering battle with the Senate over how to deal with the growing illegal population.

Read more...

• GALEO AND NALEO STRONGLY OPPOSE PROPOSED VOTER ID BILLS: Legislation Would Impose Unfair, Burdensome and Unnecessary Requirements for Georgia Voters

Atlanta, Georgia & Los Angeles, CA - March 23, 2005 The Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO) and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund today issued the following statement in opposition to HB 244 and SB 84, which would impose unnecessary new registration and polling place identification requirements on Georgia voters:

“We vigorously oppose the new photo identification requirements that would be imposed by HB 244 and SB 84 because they will create unnecessary and discriminatory obstacles for voters who wish to participate in Georgia’s electoral process. These requirements would have a particularly detrimental impact on Georgia’s Latinos. From our experience working with Latino voters in Georgia and throughout the nation, we have learned that some pollworkers or election officials arbitrarily subject Latino voters to greater scrutiny during the registration and voting process. While we believe that most Georgia election workers treat voters fairly, there is still a significant risk that the new requirements will be used improperly to prevent Latino voter participation.

Read more...

• GALEO Intern Highlight! Aldo Lozano from Georgia State University

Aldo Lozano obtained an arts associate degree from Georgia Perimeter College in 2002. He will receive a bachelor’s degree from Georgia State University in May 2005. He has been one of the few Hispanics that have served in the Georgia Legislative Internship Program. Last year, Aldo worked as a visiting political science and history professor at Tec de Monterrey (ITESM) Campus Laguna at Torreon, Mexico, where he was born and raised.

Read More About GALEO’s Spring 2005 Interns!

• Thank you to our Members!

Senator’s Circle

Altria Corporate Services, Inc.
Kilpatrick Stockton LLP
Professional Association of Georgia Educators

Legislator’s Circle

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

Become a GALEO Member to support our efforts!

• Upcoming Events...

Save the Dates!

• Mexican Center, Children’s Day Celebration, April 17th
• LAA 8th Annual Latino Summit, 4/27/05. Come hear about “Immigration: Facts, Myths and Public Policy”
• Sumaq Summit 2005, May 4-5, 2005
• Center for Hispanic Studies Invites GALEO Members to Inauguration of the Laboratory of Applied Resources, 5/10/05
• Naturalization Drive, American Immigration Lawyers Assoc., 5/21/05
• 2nd Annual GALEO Power Breakfast, Date: TBD
More info on EVENTS...

- The University of Georgia (UGA) partners with GALEO & other organizations for a conference on Latinos in the SE

**FINDING SOLUTIONS: Latinos and the Socio-Economic Development of the Southeast**

June 6-7, 2005

Georgia Center for Continuing Education
Athens, Georgia

The 2005 Latino conference will focus on:

- Latino workforce issues including education and skill development; labor and employment issues; legal immigration and financial issues; and leadership development;
- Analyzing the role of the Latino workforce in the socioeconomic future of the southeast, and in particular, the southeast's economic and community development; and
- Encouraging discussion of potential solutions to barriers to Latino socioeconomic development and to the problems facing the Latino workforce, including legislative measures, policy development, and multilateral agreements.

Read more...

- GALEO documents comments at a recent Christian Coalition Conference

Atlanta, Georgia - March 23, 2005 As President Bush meets with Mexican President Vicente Fox and Canadian Prime Minister Martin, GALEO urges President Bush to move towards achieving comprehensive immigration reform. The U.S. Congress and President Bush should act soon and develop a solution to our failed immigration policy. The reform efforts should consider our national security, should encourage and enhance continued economic development and should protect the rights and dignity of immigrants.


Sample commentary: Mark Krikorian of the Center for Immigration Studies stated, "we round up all illegal aliens [put] them into boxcars and send them all back to Mexico in the middle of the night."

Read more...

- AJC Political Insider: Latinos weigh in on voter ID debate

The debate over the legislation to require voters to present photo identification at the polls has been cast as a matter of history, in black and white.

The future is in black, white and brown.

Read more...

- Washington Times (3/21/05): Turn Back the Nativists

This week President Bush will meet with Mexican President Vicente Fox to discuss a number of thorny issues, primary among them: immigration and border control policy.

George W. Bush has long been supported a pro-growth, pro-freedom immigration strategy and clearly sees immigrants as assets to the United
States. On this issue, his world vision collides with the Republican Party’s more nativist faction, which would drape a “No Admittance” sign over the Statue of Liberty.

This week President Bush will meet with Mexican President Vicente Fox to discuss a number of thorny issues, primary among them: immigration and border control policy.

George W. Bush has long been supported a pro-growth, pro-freedom immigration strategy and clearly sees immigrants as assets to the United States. On this issue, his world vision collides with the Republican Party’s more nativist faction, which would drape a “No Admittance” sign over the Statue of Liberty.

On the economics of immigration, Mr. Bush is more right than his critics. Whether skilled scientists and engineers in Silicon Valley or the migrant laborers who work in the sweaty fields of the Southwest picking fruits and vegetables, immigrants are the backbone of the American economy.

Read more...

- AP: Northwest Arkansas legislators offer resolution on immigration issues

March 18, 2005

The federal government should expedite citizenship for illegal immigrants’ children who graduate from Arkansas high schools, two northwest Arkansas legislators say.


Read more...

- Nuevo Impacto: GALEO Increases Political Presence in GA

The Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO) spoke about their growth and goals as an organization during their membership meeting on February 17, 2005 in Midtown, Atlanta.

Read more (PDF)...

- Anavitarte Receives Ivan Allen Jr. Legacy Award

Atlanta, Georgia - March 15, 2005 GALEO congratulates fellow GALEO Board Member and Doraville City Council Member, Jason Anavitarte, on being recognized for his vision and continued service to the City of Doraville.

Councilman Jason Anavitarte received the Ivan Allen Jr. Legacy Award for a Georgia Tech Alumnus today at the Biltmore Hotel in midtown Atlanta.

Read more...

- GALEO Congratulates GALEO Board Member Luis Aguilar: Aguilar to Receive MALDEF Leadership Award

Atlanta, Georgia - April 11, 2005 GALEO congratulates fellow Board Member and attorney at McKenna Long and Aldridge LLP, Luis Aguilar, on being recognized for his dedicated leadership and continued service in Georgia.

Mr. Luis Aguilar will be honored with the MALDEF Leadership Award on April 28th at the Fourth Annual MALDEF-Atlanta Awards Dinner.

More info...

- AJC-Employers like guest work plan: Proponents: Immigrants needed for some jobs

Sunday, April 10, 2005

Washington --- A variety of business interests, including hotels, farms and restaurants, are lobbying Congress to enact President Bush’s proposal for a "guest worker" program for immigrants.

More info...
Powerful communication.

It's essential to all you do. It's how you make things happen... how you establish position, and how you motivate both your partners and the public. It's critical to transferring vision, inspiring others, and ultimately... driving your success.

Through speeches, presentations, or one-on-one meetings - your ability to connect with your audience is the last critical link between you and the results you want. And, developing the skills you need to make that happen takes more than simple public speaking seminars or presentation training. It's takes connection, and that begins with you. With your connection to yourself. With your commitment to grow.

That's where Speakeasy has established it's value and reputation for more than 30 years. Communicating, inspiring, and growing individuals just like you. For information on their 3-day communication development program Talk So People Listen, contact Nicole Bermudez at 404/541-4800 or Nicole.Bermudez@Speakeasyinc.com or go to http://www.speakeasyinc.com.

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.

Visit SPEAKEASY Inc. Online...