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# Boletín

A Publication for Members and Friends of Valiente • November 2006

## LGBT Latinos to help feed families during the December holiday

### Gay LULAC to adopt 50 families to feed during December

Gay LULAC is one of 12 area LULAC councils which has enlisted in the Second Annual LULAC District 3 “Cena en el Barrio” (“Dinner in the Neighborhood”) – a project to help feed low-income families in North Texas.

“We are delighted to undertake this project during the holidays. Gay LULAC has been warmly received by our fellow councils in Region District 3, and they felt it was important that we also take part in this philanthropic endeavor,” said Gay LULAC Secretary Jesse Garcia, one of the founders of the group. Garcia is also secretary of Valiente.

LULAC District 3 is an umbrella organization of all the LULAC Councils in North and East Texas. LULAC, which stands for League of United Latin American Citizens, is the oldest Hispanic civil rights group in the nation.

Gay LULAC is the newest chapter in District 3, which already boasts 16 paid members and averages 25 people at each monthly meeting. The organization was chartered in May 2006. The group has been spotlighted in the Dallas Observer, Univision, KNON 89.3 and Al Dia.

“Our group has been busy introducing ourselves to the public with the aim to build bridges between the LGBT and Hispanic community. The Holiday Dinner project will allow our LGBT membership to work alongside Hispanic community leaders and deliver meals to families in need,” said Garcia.

The dinner project requires each council to collect, package and hand deliver holiday meals to needy families in their neighborhoods.

LULAC councils across the north Texas will collect a total of 1,000 frozen turkeys; 1,000 cans of corn; 1,000 cans of green beans; 1,000 loaves of bread and 1,000 5-pound bags of potatoes.



*(Left to right) Valiente Secretary Jesse Garcia and Director of LULAC District 3 Coty Rodriguez-Anderson, who has been a big supporter of the LGBT inclusion in LULAC. Rodriguez-Anderson has tasked Gay LULAC to locate 50 needy families to help out this holiday season. Garcia helped found Gay LULAC at a Valiente meeting this past May.*

Gay LULAC will adopt 50 low-income families in the Oak Lawn area and will provide gift-wrapped boxes to package the holiday meal in. Gay LULAC will package and deliver meals on Dec. 16.

“If anyone in the community can donate 50 empty boxes and gift-wrapping paper, Gay LULAC would greatly appreciate it. We’re looking for boxes the size of those that carry reams of copy paper (18 inches by 12 inches, 10 inches deep). A holiday turkey and fixings fit perfectly within the box,” said Garcia.

Anyone interested donating these items can email GayLULAC@aol.com or call 214.521.5342, ext. 1729. Items are needed by Dec. 1.

Gay LULAC meets every fourth Tuesday of month at 6:30 p.m., at the LULAC Housing Commission. The next meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 28, will feature Southern Methodist University Professor Ben Johnson, who will speak about the Latino movement in Texas and the rise of LULAC. Elections for 2007 officers will also be held. ▽

## Hispanic friendly candidates prevail in midterm elections

By Lizette Jenness Olmos  
LULAC Spokesperson

Washington, DC - On Nov. 7, elections confirmed growing Hispanic political power in the United States with increased representation in Congress.

"We are very excited to see that we may now have an opportunity to pass meaningful comprehensive immigration reform, address negotiating Medicare Part D drug prices and raise the minimum wage among other key issues for Hispanics," said LULAC National President Rosa Rosales. "The voters exercised their fundamental right to vote and chose change. Yesterday we marched, yesterday we voted and today we see change."

More than half of voters said that they believe illegal immigrants working in the United States should be offered a chance to apply for legal status, a position that was supported by Bush but rejected by House Republicans who have pushed an enforcement-first approach to controlling illegal immigration. Democratic candidates won support from six in 10 of those

who backed a path to citizenship, according to preliminary findings.

Latinos, meanwhile, made up less than 10 percent of the national electorate, and nearly three-quarters of them reported voting for Democrats.

Analysts explained that although the Latino vote in these elections does not surpass five million, it is of decisive importance in states where the contest is very close coming down to the issues.

For the Hispanic community, the largest minority group with a population of approximately 43 million, the time came to demonstrate their rejection of the anti-immigration policies of the Republicans as was seen with the defeat of Arizona Congressman J.D. Hayworth of Arizona, conservative anti-immigrant Congressional candidate Randy Graff in Arizona's 8th district losing the election to the more moderate Democrat candidate Gabrielle Giffords.

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is the oldest and largest Hispanic civil rights organization in the United States. ✓

## News Briefs

### General Meeting on Nov. 16:

Valiente will meet Thursday, Nov. 16, at 6:30 p.m., at Havana's, located on 4006 Cedar Springs Rd., Dallas, TX 75219. This month's guest speaker is Chief Deputy Jesse Flores, the newly appointed Dallas County Sheriff's Department liaison to the LGBT community.

### Valiente Holiday Party on Nov. 19:

Valiente will hold its Second Annual Holiday Party on Sunday, Nov. 19, at 3 p.m. This year's feast will be held at the home of member Rey Franco, located on 2330 Chinkapin Way, Dallas, TX 75212.

### Gay LULAC meets Oct. 24:

Valiente members are invited to Gay LULAC's general meeting being held Tuesday, Nov. 28, 6:30 p.m. at the LULAC Housing Commission Headquarters, 6500 Greenville Ave. #515, Dallas, TX 75206.

### Valiente welcomes new members:

Since Oct. 1, Valiente has added five new members: J.D. Angle of Fort Worth, Joel Burns of Fort Worth, Jose Luis Chavez of Richardson, Jose Raymundo of Dallas and Robert Santos of Dallas.

### Membership & fundraising report:

*Cesar Reyna:* It has been a great year for the Membership and Fundraising Committee (MFC); we organized events, raised money for Lipscomb Elementary, AIDS Outreach Center in Fort Worth, Greater Dallas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, AIDS LifeWalk, and others. We even sponsored three amazing films at the Vistas Film Festival and QCinema while still having the energy to boost our members. We still have a membership drive going on until Dec. 31. The winner of the drive will receive a \$100 gift certificate, a garment designed by Valiente member and MFC Vice Chair Jerry Martinez, and free membership to Valiente for 2007. We have also begun planning activities for 2007. I would like to request your suggestions for membership, fundraising, and social events for the upcoming year. Please send suggestions to reyna\_cesar@yahoo.com. V

## Gay Latino denied voting rights, forced to vote provisional

By Jesse Garcia  
Valiente Secretary

More than 400,000 Dallas County voters went to the polls on Tuesday, November 7. More than a quarter of that amount early voted, including new Dallas resident Sergio Chapa who moved from Harlingen, Texas, on July 23 to southwest Dallas.

Chapa went to vote on Oct. 29 at the Grauwlyer Recreation Center on Harry Hines Blvd.

The election worker couldn't find Chapa's name on the voter registration system.

"The election judge allowed me to present an affidavit and cast provisional ballot. The whole process from beginning to end took 40 minutes. I am now waiting for a notice from Dallas County to see whether or not they will count my provisional ballot. They better!" said Chapa.

Chapa is angered that his vote may not be counted, even though he followed rules set up by the State of Texas.



*Sergio Chapa received his voter registration card three days after the election, even though he registered two weeks before the Oct. 10 registration deadline.*

On August 24, 2006, Chapa used texasonline.com to update his driver's license

See "Chapa," Page 4

## Mundo Latino

### Gay Latino running for Dallas City Council from District 3 in 2007:

On Nov. 6, Joseph Hernandez filed paperwork naming a campaign treasurer for a run for the anticipated District 3 City Council seat being vacated by current Gay City Councilman Ed Oakley. Oakley is running for Dallas Mayor. "Together we can make District 3 and the City of Dallas a better place for everyone. A level playing field for every citizen, regardless of race, gender, faith or sexual orientation," said Hernandez, who will be coming to future Valiente meetings to meet the membership.

### Mexico City allowing Civil Unions:

On Nov. 9, Mexico City's assembly approved legislation to legally recognize gay civil unions in the capital. The Associated Press reported that the bill, which would not approve gay marriage, allows same-sex couples to register their union with civil authorities, granting them inheritance rights and other benefits typically given to spouses. Mexico City Mayor Alejandro Encinas has spoken in favor of the bill and was expected to sign it into law.

### Six states ban same-sex marriage; voters in Arizona defeat measure:

On Nov. 7, seven states in the U.S. voted to ban same-sex marriage: South Dakota, Idaho, Wisconsin, Tennessee, South Carolina, Virginia and Colorado. Arizona defeated an amendment to ban same-sex marriage, 51.5 percent to 48.5 percent (by 39,000 votes). Arizona has population of nearly six million people, with 28 percent of that population being Hispanic.

### Americans with HIV living longer:

A study released on Nov. 10 says that Americans with HIV can expect to live an average of 24 years, and pay at least \$25,000 for medication to treat the disease. The study being released by the health magazine, Medical Care, in November is expected to influence how much state and federal governments appropriate funds for HIV and AIDS care. Latinos comprise 14 percent of the population in the United States but account for 20 percent of all those living with AIDS. ▽

# 10 Questions

with  
Rey Franco



This past year, Rey Franco has been very active in Valiente, helping the group during its summer talent show and religiously attending general meetings. To show his gratitude to the group, he will host this year's Holiday Dinner:

### Boletín: Why are you involved with Valiente? Rey Franco:

"About four years ago, two of my friends from Houston led the Houston LGBT organization GLOBO. I remember them talking about their activities and involvement in the Houston LGBT community and wished that there was a like group in Dallas. About two years ago, I heard of Valiente and was glad to find that such a group had been started locally. I've been a member of this great organization for almost two years. I am involved because I support Valiente's objectives, primarily to increase the visibility and acceptance of our sexuality and to advocate on the social issues that impact the Latino LGBT community."

### Boletín: What things would you like Valiente to take on 2007? RF:

"I think that Valiente has built a very strong foundation these past two years and that the organization is now known and recognized by many. Unfortunately, membership wise, I don't think that we are where we could be. There is a lot of potential for growth. In 2007, I would like to see membership drives/blitzes to increase membership so that we can become a larger and stronger organization."

### Boletín: Where are you originally from? RF:

"I was born in San Angelo, Texas. We lived there for a couple of years and then moved to Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico. We moved to Dallas in 1979."

### Boletín: You enjoy cooking. What is your favorite dish? RF:

"One dish that I absolutely love and that is easy to make and enjoyed by everyone one who tastes them are my Enchiladas Verdes."

**Boletín: What is the recipe? RF:** "It's my 'comadre's' recipe.

- 3-4 poblano peppers, roasted, peeled and seeded
- 1-2 cans of evaporated milk
- 1-2 chicken bouillon cubes
- 1 stick of butter
- boiled chicken, shredded
- grated cheese (your choice)
- corn tortillas (may also use flour)

In the blender, blend the peppers, milk, and chicken bouillon cubes. In a saucepan, melt the stick of butter. Once melted, add the sauce and simmer on low heat for 20-30 minutes. Lightly fry the tortillas in oil and fill with chicken and roll. Top with sauce and cheese. Bake for 15-20 minutes or until chesse is melted. Enjoy!"

### Boletín: Who is your hero? RF:

"This is a hard one. I really don't have one in particular, but I really do admire all the folks who have fought for civil rights in this country. Rosa Parks, for example, would not be relegated to second-class status and as a result of her courage and beliefs her efforts changed many lives. It is people like her, Cesar Chavez and Dr. Martin Luther King who have fought for civil rights to shape this country to what it is today."

### Boletín: If you had to choose one, which one would you select: Kaliente, Havana's or Azuqita? RF:

"Tough one. I frequent all three so I can't choose just one. In my opinion they cater to different crowds, so depending on the mood you are in each one is sure to satisfy your crave for that night."

### Boletín: Your hosting Valiente's annual Holiday Dinner. What can we expect? RF:

"Food, fun and friends!!! We will be having a traditional Thanksgiving dinner."

### Boletín: What's on the menu? RF:

"Roast turkey, glazed ham, mashed potatoes, buttered corn, bacon-flavored green beans, wheat rolls, and homemade cranberry sauce, plus various holiday desserts. We will have soft drinks, but members are welcome to bring their own alcohol."

### Boletín: Where can people call to R.S.V.P. and how do we get to your home? RF:

"Please call (214) 879-9828 and leave a message. My address is 2330 Chinkapin Way, Dallas, 75212. From 35/Inwood, go South on Inwood. Cross the Trinity River Bridge. Immediately after crossing the bridge, make a right on Calypso. Left on Goldman. Left on Tan Oak and a right on Chinkapin Way." ▽

## Chapa: State needs to fix broken voting system

Continued from Page 2

information in accordance with state law, which allows Texas residents to update their driver's license information via the Internet as well as in compliance with the state's transportation code, which requires Texas residents to update their driver's licenses or identification cards within 30 days of an address change.

During the on-line driver's license update transaction, Chapa opted to have the Texas Department of Public Safety, update his voter registration information in accordance with DPS being a designated voter registration agency as defined in Texas' election code.

On October 23, Chapa telephoned the Dallas County Elections Office to confirm he was registered to vote and could participate in the Nov. 7th election.

An employee at the Elections Office informed Chapa that there are "often problems" with the texasonline.com website and with DPS registering residents to vote in Dallas County.

The Elections Department employee then informed Chapa that he could vote in Cameron County or receive a limited ballot in Dallas County. Cameron County is 522 miles away (an 8-hour drive south of Dallas).

Chapa was not only angry with that non-responsive answer, but he feels minorities, with ethnic names, may have been turned away at the polls.

"When I went to vote during early voting, the same thing happened to two South Asian girls. They left without casting a provisional ballot, but it really makes you wonder who else this is happened to and if they are all ethnic minorities," he said.

To add insult to injury, Chapa received his voter registration card on Friday, Nov. 10 — three days after the election.

Chapa has been an active voter ever since he turned 18, voting across party lines each time and voting in different party primaries.

"As allowed under Texas state law, I registered to vote about two weeks before my eighteenth birthday. I have not voted

during every election but I would say I have a 75 percent to 85 percent record," he said.

"If my provisional ballot is not counted, I intend to look at my legal options. I did everything by the book and I believe that the Texas Department of Public Safety and its drivers license registration system has violated my civil rights and disenfranchised me and others as voters," said Chapa.

Chapa has used the motor voter registration before without problems in Austin and the Rio Grande Valley.

"I don't understand why it didn't work this year in Dallas. The State of Texas cannot be complacent when it comes to the voting rights of its citizens. The state needs to fix this broken system," he said.

Chapa has approached attorney Lena Levario to help him with the case.

Levario was the top-notch lawyer appointed by the City of Dallas to clean up its police department after a fake-drug scandal sent innocent Latinos to jail on trumped up charges. ▽



Valiente

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**Boletín** is a monthly publication of Valiente. Views and opinions are those of the members. To contact the editor, e-mail Jesse Garcia at [Jgarcia71@aol.com](mailto:Jgarcia71@aol.com). No portion of this newsletter may be reproduced without permission.

President • Fernando Sanchez  
Vice President • Juan Ayala  
Treasurer • Alicia Molina  
Secretary • Jesse Garcia

\*\*\*\*Remember:

Valiente General Meeting

Thursday, November 16, 6:30 p.m.

Havana's on 4006 Cedar Springs Rd.

Featured guest: Chief Deputy Jesse Flores