

HISPANIC ROUNDTABLE (HRT) GENERAL MEETING

March 19, 2009

In attendance:

Paulina Alanis – *Mason General Hospital*

Lourdes Beck – *H&R Block*

Jose Diaz – *Office of Minority & Women's Business Enterprises, HRT President*

Paul Gallegos – *The Evergreen State College*

Rechele Heath – *State Farm Office, Hispanic Women's Network President*

Elena Huizar-Pérez – *Office of the Attorney General*

Richard Lasso – *College Success Foundation*

Carmen Murphy – *UniVera Life Sciences, HRT Membership Coordinator*

Sara Peté – *Olympia Timberland Library, HRT Secretary*

Olivia Salazar de Breaux – *SPSCC, HRT Administrative Assistant*

Eileen Yoshina – *South Puget Sound Community College*

Latino Youth Summit

-The LYS is an event that the HRT created in 2002.

-It is built on three themes and it serves Hispanic high school students Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific and Thurston counties: Education, Careers, and Health Lifestyles.

-The importance of getting a high school diploma and going on to 2 and/or 4 year colleges is stressed during the summit.

-The summit started at a community center for about 50 participants including parents and students and volunteers. The second year was at Centralia College with about 150 students. The next year had almost 300 students at SPSCC. The next year's event was hosted by St. Martin's University at around 300. The summit then went back to Centralia College and it grew to 450. Last year the event was at SPSCC again and it was at 500.

-Many other colleges are involved. WSU has been a huge partner for the summit.

-A big part of the event is to get kids on campus, break the ice, and welcome the students to the college campuses.

-The last two years we've had professional motivational speakers to open the summit. This sets a good tone for the day.

-This year will be the 7th annual Latino Youth Summit!

-Challenges for 2009 include fundraising.

--The sooner we get started on securing funds the better - we need all of our solicitation materials together by May 1st.

--We need to do our follow-ups with these funders by July.

-Kathy, Olivia, Ruth and Sara have been working on a timeline template that we can use to help us plan this year's event. The template will be shared with those on the LYS planning committee before the next meeting.

-When Jo Pilon comes back from Spain we'll get the LYS meeting schedule figured out.

- Lourdes Beck is a nonprofit auction specialist. She suggested that six months planning time is needed to plan a fundraising auction. We should be exploring many different avenues for fundraising.
- This year the event will be on October 16th at St. Martin's University.
- Paul would like to start meeting with Jose ASAP on fundraising issues.
- At our first LYS meeting this year we will have the budget for last year (that Olivia put together... thank you Olivia!).
- We will also need to identify some students that we might profile for the fundraising packet.

HRT Sponsor Reception/Celebration

- It was held on January 29, 2009
- It was held to celebrate the work and recognize the volunteers who help to put the event together.

TOGETHER! Champions Dinner

- This year Kerry Gomez was recognized.
- She consistently brings a large number of students from Rochester High School.

Nuestras Conexiones – HRT Newsletter

- Olivia is currently starting working on a spring edition.
- The newsletter is sent electronically to a few hundred people on the HRT list.
- It also goes up on the HRT website.
- If you have things coming up in your agency that you want to share please email them to Olivia.
- It will be sent out by April or mid April at the latest.
- The newsletter is generally bilingual.
- Email articles to Olivia by **March 27th** Hispanic@hispanicroundtable.org
- We also do advertising.
- Olivia can work with .jpg, .gif and .bmp image files.
- The length of the article should be just a few paragraphs.
- Olivia will send out an email with her requirements and deadlines to the HRT listserv.
- If you can send the article in English and Spanish please do so.

Committee Reports:

- Veronica could not make it to the meeting but she is still representing the HRT at the United Way.
- A treasurer's report will be ready for the next meeting.
- Carmen's Report:
 - Membership fees are due for 2009.
 - These dues really help out with administrative costs.
- Webmaster's Report – Ivan is still maintaining the website.

Guest Speaker: Elena H. Pérez

- Elena works for the WA State Attorney General's Office.

- Elena is relatively new at the AG's Office and worked in libraries in Yakima before taking her current position. At the library she did a lot of bilingual outreach.
- Elena does outreach state-wide for the AG's office.
- The AG has two current campaigns for Spanish speakers in WA:
 - Auto Financing Issues
 - Changed interest quotes.
 - Implied warranty.
 - The deal is done in Spanish, contract is in English. Fees are being added.
 - Culturally many Latinos feel obligated to buy after a sales person has spoken with them for an extended period of time.
 - The AG's office educates the public on their consumer rights, on knowing their credit report and on their right to walk away.
- Immigration Assistance Fraud
 - Elena explained the difference between a notary public and a notario publico.
 - Many native Spanish speakers assume that a notary publico is someone with a legal background because that is what a notario publico is in Mexico.
- There are notary publics who are claiming to be a "notario publico" and charging people a lot of money to do immigration paperwork.
- The paperwork is often done incorrectly or not sent in at all.
- If you learn of anyone advertising themselves in this way, please report occurrences to the attorney general.
- The AG's office wants to investigate, prosecute and make an example of those committing this kind of fraud.
- The Attorney General's office also provides training for frontline staff.
- Paul asked about the relationship between ICE and the Attorney General's Office.
- If the AG's office knows that someone is undocumented they are mandated to be turned in.
- Elena can do presentations for the public on ID theft, auto finance, debt collection and other things in English and Spanish.
- Elena's email address is elenap@atg.wa.gov

Guest Speaker: Richard Lasso – College Success Foundation

- Very few people are currently taking advantage of this program.
- This program was started last year by the State of WA.
- Low income students are the slowest growing population group going to college.
- WA state ranks 32nd nationwide.
- It is a very short application for this scholarship.
- Applicants must make 3 promises:
 - graduate high school with a 2.0 grade level or higher.
 - Avoid being convicted of a felony.
 - Apply for WA state colleges as a senior and fill out a FAFSA.
- Students will receive tuition for 4 years at a WA state school at public rates plus \$500 books.
- if they choose to go to a non-state school they can get the state school rate

- This is a fairly new program.
- This program is open to current middle school students.
- Students must be in 7th or 8th grade.
- For this year only, those in 9th grade can apply too.
- The application is available in Spanish and some other languages, too.
- The student will need a social security number in order to get the funds but undocumented students are still encouraged to apply in the hopes that they may have residency by the time they are a senior.
- This program is a great motivator.
- We will put an article about this program in the HRT newsletter and a link on our website.

New Business

- Jose is working on a Parent Conference, possibly in June of this year.

Announcements

From Jose:

- April 18th – citizenship day
- lawyers and other professionals provide legal advice to immigrants free of charge
- open to all immigrant communities
- http://www.wanewamericans.org/april_18

From Paul:

- An international organization of indigenous women, the International Council of 13 Indigenous Grandmas, leaders in their community, who share concern about the state of the environment, about global violence, and about the loss of indigenous cultures through development and oppression.
- They have been to Rome and have worked with the UN.
- On Cinco de Mayo, four of them will be at Evergreen to speak, they'll be at the college for a week.
- members of the HRT should come to the talk on May 5th at 7:00 p.m. Lecture Hall 1.
- there may also be an opportunity for the HRT to have their own meeting with these council members with one or two of the grandmothers – Monday, May 4th during the day and possibly the evening, time on Thursday evening as well
- <http://www.evergreen.edu/events/springcolloquium/home.htm>

Future meeting times:

We may be changing the locations and times of HRT board meetings and LYS planning committee meetings.

New options include: lunch times, early evenings, and Fridays at noon.