



The Hispanic Leaders Group of Greater St. Louis Résumé

Following are some of HLG actions in the past and present

Federal Level

Correspondence with Presidents Bush and Clinton regarding supporting Hispanic jurist for position on U.S. Supreme Court, and interviewed on television, regarding same issue; Pursued federal agencies when complaints were received from Hispanic federal government employees. An investigation commenced; Letters were written to approximately seven (7) federal agencies requesting a response to their fulfilling the government's mandate regarding Affirmative Action and Hispanic employees; Letters were exchanged, telephone conversations were had, and meetings were held; Some Hispanics were advanced in their positions because of this effort.

Opposition to English-Only Legislation: Testifying before committees of Senators and of Representatives; Letters forwarded to Senators, Representatives, organizations in St. Louis and Kansas City, community leaders, and individuals; Telephone calls to Senators, Representatives, organizations (St. Louis and Kansas City), and individuals; Meetings with Governor, Senators, Representatives, organizations, and individuals; TV programs, speeches to groups, etc; Yearly activity since 1985.

City Level

Worked with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in obtaining Executive Order which opened city business on set-asides to include the Hispanic community but which originally had been open only to the African-American community; Worked with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to obtain city legislation to do the same as the Executive Order, by lobbying The Board of Aldermen; Meeting with Virvus Jones, City Comptroller and James Wilson, City Counselor, regarding same issue and opposition to the Brimmer Report.

Collinsville

Came to the defense of a Hispanic restaurateur when he was subjected to harassing police activities by contacting the City and supporting the restaurateur; Board of Police Commissioners (City of St. Louis); Contacted the Board in regard to the employment of Hispanics as police officers, with reply given on efforts to recruit Hispanic candidates and further dialogue with the Board regarding continued employment of Hispanics; Contacted the Board in regard to the case of Officer Eddie Sanchez with the intent to inform the Board that the Hispanic community viewed the publicity surrounding the case with alarm and to inform the Board that the civil rights of Officer Sanchez had to be protected. Upon invitation from the Board, a representative was present for the hearing before the Board regarding the charges against Officer Sanchez. Contacted Hispanic organizations regarding this issue

Domed Stadium

Effort in conjunction with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to assure that the Hispanic business community was included in the Domed Stadium business by attending every meeting of the Board, writing letters to members of the Board and the prime contractor. Attended a special meeting with the St. Louis County Executive regarding minority concerns, being the only Hispanic representative in attendance

Festivals

Sponsored and sole responsible organization of Feria 85; Hispanic Festival 1993, 1994, 1995, and 1996; Arch Christmas Tree Project; Decorated Christmas tree at the Arch for approximately seven (7) years

Hispanic Issues Forum

Sponsored a series of presentations by various persons regarding Hispanics or Hispanic issues including: Jose Torres, former world's light-weight boxing champ; Ramon Gallardo, founder of Casa Gallardo Restaurant, and other speakers.

American Jewish Committee

Participation with American Jewish Committee regarding television programs, conferences on civil rights issues, and the like

Arts and Treasures from Latin America

Sponsor of the City Hall reception for representatives from Peru and the City of St. Louis for the cultural project entitled "Peru '98"; Sponsor of the City Hall reception for representatives from Mexico and the City of St. Louis for the cultural project entitled "Mexico '99"; Sponsor of the City Hall reception for representatives from Puerto Rico, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic and the City of St. Louis for the cultural project entitled "Caribbean 2001"; Sponsor of the City Hall reception for representatives from Colombia (Consul General of Colombia at Chicago) and the City of St. Louis (Mayor Francis Slay) for the cultural project entitled "Colombia 2002"; Sponsor of the City Hall reception for representatives from Bolivia and the City of St. Louis for the cultural project entitled "Bolivia 2003"; Sponsor of the City Hall reception for representatives from Argentina and the City of St. Louis for the cultural project entitled "Argentina 2004"; Sponsored of the City Hall reception for representatives from Venezuela and the City of St. Louis for the cultural project entitled "Venezuela 2005"; Sponsor of the City Hall reception for representatives from Argentina, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Bolivia, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Cuba and the City of St. Louis for the cultural project entitled "Nuestras Culturas" celebrating the 10th anniversary of Arts and Treasures from Latin America in 2006.

Confluence

Represented at Fordyce Two Leadership Summit; Sponsored by Confluence which was a watershed study on discrimination in the St. Louis area and being the only Hispanic representative in attendance.

Study of Minority Business

Caused study of minority business by Confluence to expand from covering only the African-American community to include other communities, including the Hispanic community

Participation in other organizations

Hispanic Employment Programs Coordinators (HEPC): Assisted in presentation of 1997 Hispanic seminar. This organization represents Hispanic employees in the federal government; Participated in monthly activities of HEPC.

Assisted in establishing a Hispanic section (books, etc.) in the St. Louis City Public Library by donating required funds.

Encouraged and assisted the St. Louis Post Dispatch in coordinating and implementing the first Hispanic Resource Guide produced and published by the newspaper.

Co-sponsorship with UM-St. Louis the art exhibit "Dark Field/Dark Heart" by artist Connie Arismendi, August 26 - October 11, 1997, University of Missouri, St. Louis.

Worked with the Urban League and other groups in an outreach program for Hispanic students to render aid and assistance.

Collaborated with the Coalition of Hispanic Organization (COHO) in Kansas City in regards to English-only opposition to the proposed legislation.

Arranged proclamations for the yearly observations from various political leaders in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Other Activities

Published a Calendar of Events for all Hispanic organization activities and prepared a Scholarship Survey.

Lobbied the St. Louis Board of Alderman and the cable company regarding the decision by the cable company to terminate cable television to the city of St. Louis.

Held a reception in March 1997 with Flora María García, Executive Director, Missouri Arts Council as a special guest.

Established the "*Embajadora Hispana*" Project 1999; A project that interviewed young Hispanic women and through an independent judging process selected one girl to be the 1st "*Embajadora Hispana*" (Hispanic Ambassador) who would serve as a representative of the Hispanic community at various events throughout a one (1) year term. The Hispanic Leaders Group of Greater St. Louis, along with the collaboration of other interested parties, originated, sponsored, and produced the "*Embajadora Hispana*" Project 1999.

As Chair of the HLG gave the keynote address at the Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, for a Hispanic Heritage Month activity in October 1999.

Woman of Achievement Award 2000: We interviewed and selected applicants from several Hispanic women, submitting one application for recognition of this award.

Woman of Achievement Award 2003: We interviewed and selected applicants from several Hispanic women, submitting one application for recognition of this award.

Walk-As-One: A project of the National Conference of Community and Justice to educate the community about race relations. The purpose was to raise awareness of the bias and discrimination and to work with young people to stop this problem early in their lives. It was sponsored by the St. Louis Post Dispatch to reach out to the whole St. Louis area and held on October 28, 2000. Members of the Hispanic Leaders Group participated in the walk while holding a banner with the Hispanic Leaders logo.

Political Meetings

Members of the Hispanic Leaders Group of Greater St. Louis attended meetings held by Mayor Clarence Harmon of St. Louis city, U. S. Representative Richard Gephardt, and Mr. Bush, nephew to President Bush.

Civic Awareness Reception: An event sponsored by the Hispanic Leaders Group on March 30, 2001 in which Missouri Senators, Representatives and the Governor were invited to attend and learn about the Hispanic community's views on specific issues. Held at A.G. Edwards in St. Louis.

An event sponsored by the Hispanic Leaders Group on March 22, 2002 in which Missouri Senators, Representatives and the Governor were invited to attend and learn about the Hispanic community's views on specific issues. Held at Harris-Stowe College in St. Louis.

An event sponsored by the Hispanic Leaders Group on April 25, 2003 in which Missouri Senators, Representatives and the Governor were invited to attend and learn about the Hispanic community's views on specific issues. Held at Harris-Stowe College in St. Louis.

An event sponsored by the Hispanic Leaders Group on September 10, 2004. The event was held in a Town Hall format in which Missouri Senators, Representatives, St. Louis City and County electees or their representatives presented their view on the problems and possible solutions of the Hispanic community. A question and answer period followed. Held at the Emerson Auditorium at Harris-Stowe College in St. Louis.

An event sponsored by HLG on November 21, 2005. The event was held at Anheuser-Busch Reception Center in which over 20 Missouri Senators, Representatives, St. Louis City and County elected officials and their representatives were briefed on Hispanic affairs and concerns and they presented their views on the matter.

An event sponsored by HLG on November 20, 2006. The event was held at Cardinal Ritter's Prep High School auditorium in which Missouri Senators, Representatives, St. Louis City and County elected officials and their representatives were invited to attend and learn about the Hispanic Community concerns. A period of questions and answers followed.

Town Meeting with Missouri Governor Bob Holden: An event sponsored by the Hispanic Leaders Group on October 10, 2001 in which Governor Bob Holden was invited to give a short discourse on his goals for the state of Missouri. A question and answer period followed with issues pertinent to the Hispanic community. The event was held at A. G. Edwards in St. Louis.

Hispanic Day at Jefferson City

The Hispanic Leaders Group spearheaded the first Hispanic Day at Jefferson City that took place April 16, 2002. This was a direct result of the Town Meeting with Governor Bob Holden in October 2001. The purpose of the event was to have 40 Hispanic representatives from throughout the state of Missouri visit the Governor and members of the Missouri Senate and House of Representatives.

The Hispanic Leaders Group spearheaded the second annual Hispanic Day at Jefferson City that took place on April 8, 2003. Hispanic representatives from throughout the state of Missouri visited the Governor and members of the Missouri Senate and House of representatives.

The Hispanic Leaders Group spearheaded the third annual Hispanic Day at Jefferson City that took place on April 21, 2004. Hispanic representatives from throughout the state of Missouri visited the Governor and members of the Missouri Senate and House of representatives.

The Hispanic Leaders Group participated in and helped organize the fourth annual Hispanic Day at Jefferson City that took place on May 3, 2005 and May 4, 2005. Hispanic representatives from throughout the state of Missouri visited the Governor and members of the Missouri Senate and House of representatives.

HLG participated in and help organize the fifth annual Hispanic Day at Jefferson City that took place March 5-6, 2006. Hispanic representatives from throughout the state of Missouri visited the Governor and members of his cabinet as well as members of the legislature.

HLG participated and help organize the sixth annual Hispanic Day at Jefferson City that took place Mar 7-8, 2007. Hispanic representatives from throughout the state of Missouri were present. The Governor held a town Hall meeting. Representatives also visited members of the cabinets, and legislators.

The Hispanic Leaders Group host or co-host Hispanic Capitol Day from 2008-2016.

Missouri State Auditor – Claire McCaskill: On October 9, 2002, Ms. McCaskill attended the general meeting of the Hispanic Leaders Group and gave a short discourse on issues relevant to the Hispanic community. A question and answer period followed. The event was held at A. G. Edwards in St. Louis.

Political Leaders Lobbied by H.L.G.

Federal level: U.S. President Bush - Hispanic jurist on U.S. Supreme Court; U.S. President Clinton - Hispanic jurist on U.S. Supreme Court; U.S. Senator Danforth - Various Hispanic issues; U.S. Representative Gephardt - Immigration, English Only, and other issues affecting the Hispanic community; U.S. Representative Talent - Various Hispanic issues; U.S. Representative Buchner - Various Hispanic issues; US Representative Lacy Clay – Immigration issues in Missouri; US Senator Kid Bond – Various Hispanic issues

State level: Governor Ashcroft - English-Only, Domed Stadium, and proclamations; Governor Carnahan - English-Only, proclamations in regards to Hispanic Heritage Month; State Senators - Leadership (Democratic and Republican) regarding English-Only; State Representatives - Leadership (Democratic and Republican) regarding English-Only; Individual State Senators and Individual State Representatives - English-Only

City/County level; Mayor Schoemehl - Hispanic business and Domed Stadium and proclamations; Mayor Bosley - Hispanic business and Domed Stadium and proclamations; Mayor Harmon - Hispanic business and Hispanic Festivals; Mayor of Collinsville - Harassment of Hispanic restaurateur; Comptroller Virvus Jones - Hispanic business and Domed Stadium; Board of Aldermen - Hispanic business; Mayor Francis Slay – Employment of Hispanics in his administration, City participation in the annual Hispanic Heritage Observance Month; Alderman Shrewsbury - Hispanic cable programming and Hispanic business; County Executive McNary - Immigration and proclamation; County Executive Milford - Domed Stadium ;County Executive Charlie Dooley – Employment of Hispanic in his administration and County participation in the Hispanic Heritage Observance Month.

Hispanic Mentor Program Dinner/Dance: A fundraiser dinner/dance to provide the monies necessary to oversee the expenses of the Hispanic Mentor Program. Held in October 2001. The second annual fundraiser dinner/dance to provide the monies necessary to oversee the expenses of the Hispanic Mentor Program. Held May 3, 2002. The third annual fundraiser dinner/dance to provide the monies necessary to oversee the expenses of the Hispanic Mentor Program. Held March 1, 2003. The fourth annual fundraiser dinner/dance to provide the monies necessary to oversee the expenses of the Hispanic Mentor/Scholarship Program (Renamed to Mentor/Scholarship Program in 2004). Held March 6, 2004. The fifth annual fundraiser dinner/dance to provide the monies necessary to oversee the expenses of the Hispanic Scholarship Program (Renamed Hispanic Scholarship Program in 2005). There will be up to three scholarships awarded. Each scholarship will be \$1000.00. The former not-for-profit organization IMAGE awarded the Hispanic Leaders Group a portion of the money that remained in the organization upon its disbandment. Held March 5, 2005. The sixth annual fundraiser

dinner/dance to provide monies for the Scholarship Program was held at Windows of Washington. Held October 28, 2006.

Anthony B. Ramirez Premio Esperanza: The Esperanza Award is designated to recognize members of the St. Louis community whose efforts have helped the Hispanic community by giving hope while seeking change the recipient does not have to be Hispanic to win this award. The first awards presented at the Mentor Program Fundraiser Dinner/Dance on March 1, 2003. This recognition has been awarded for twelve consecutive years. Winners have been: Marvin G. Kanne; William Chignoli; Susana Hamilton; Domingo Martinez; Virginia Braxs; Rafael Nun Marin; Anthony B. Ramirez; Rep Timothy Flook; Rep Maria Chappelle-Nadal; Jaime Torres; Guillermo A. Rodriguez, Bob Fox, Anna Crosslin, Antonio Maldonado and Father Richard Vogt.

Cambio de Colores – St. Louis: The Hispanic Leaders Group helped organize and participated in the Cambio de Colores conference held at the University of Missouri – St. Louis from March 10-12, 2004.

Latino Civil Rights Summit: As a Board Member of this organization (HLG), Anthony B. Ramirez was the presenter at the Latino Civil Rights Summit in Kansas City, Missouri on April 23, 2004. The event was sponsored by COHO (Coalition of Hispanic Organizations).

St. Louis Chief Mokwa of the St. Louis Police Department: On August 11, 2004 Police Chief Mokwa attended the general meeting of the Hispanic Leaders Group and gave a short discourse of issues relevant to the Hispanic community of St. Louis city. A question and answer period followed. Chief Mokwa has since implemented some programs that he promised to do. The event was held at A. G. Edwards in St. Louis.

County Executive – Charles Dooley: On October 13, 2004 Charles Dooley attended the general meeting of the Hispanic Leaders Group and gave a dialogue on the basic responsibilities and projects associated with the office of County Executive. A question and answer period followed with questions pertaining to Hispanic community's concerns and how those issues would be addressed in the future.

Missouri Hispanic Advisory Commission: The Hispanic Leaders Group influenced the creation of the State of Missouri Hispanic Advisory Commission in Jefferson City. Members of HLG are also on the commission.

Emerging Minorities Group: The Hispanic Leaders Group played an important part in the creation of the City of St. Louis Emerging Minorities Advisory Group. The purpose is to help the Mayor of St. Louis understand the issues that are important to the minority community.

Hispanic Business & Commerce Development Council of Missouri: Governor Matt Blunt dissolved and organized a new commission in the state to oversee Hispanic affairs. HLG is represented by one commissioner a former chair of the organization.

Educational Scholarship Fund: The organization known by the name of Image disbanded and divided their funds among various organizations. The Hispanic Leaders Group was one of those fortunate enough to received funds which to serve as seed money for scholarships to Hispanic students.

Hispanic Leaders Group Scholarship Awards Dinner: The first annual Scholarship Award Dinner presented 3 awards of \$1000.00 each to Hispanic students. Held August 19, 2005.

The City of St. Louis Police Department: The Hispanic Leaders Group received recognition by the city of St. Louis Police Department for being an influence on receiving better pay for speaking a second language and the education for those who will learn another language.

American Jewish Committee: Members of the Hispanic Leaders Group went to Chicago to attend a meeting of the American Jewish Committee.

National Guard Headquarters: In September 2005, Jaime Torres was the guest speaker at the National Guard Headquarters in Illinois. He spoke of the accomplishments of the Hispanic Leaders Group in Missouri.

Metropolitan Community College in Nebraska: In September 2006, Jaime Torres was the guest speaker at the Metropolitan Community College of Omaha, Nebraska during their observance of Hispanic Heritage Month.