

# LABOR COUNCIL FOR LATIN AMERICAN ADVANCEMENT

From its inception, LCLAA's vision has been to create an environment of social, economic and political empowerment for Latino working families. Its proud history is part of a heritage of Latino workers. LCLAA's leadership and members have always stood and will continue to stand at the forefront of the labor movement in protecting their families, their communities and their unions. Through our ongoing commitment to organizing around the workplace, the union contract and the ballot box, we will make our communities strong and the nation stronger.

## JUNTOS PODEMOS!

### HISTORY

LCLAA was founded in 1973 as part of a wave of constituency group organizing within the AFL-CIO. The AFL-CIO had chartered its first retiree organization, the national Council of Senior Citizens (NCSC), in 1962 and its first civil rights organization, the A. Philip Randolph Institute, in 1965. The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists followed in 1972 to give a broader more effective voice within the AFL-CIO to black workers and the Coalition of Labor Union Women was chartered in 1974. But it was the large influx of Latino workers brought about by the chartering of the United Farm Workers in 1966 that led to a push by Latino labor union activists for a separate organization of their own.

Several years passed, however, before the growing militancy and political muscle of the emerging Latino movement moved AFL-CIO president George Meany to form a Latino constituency group. In 1972 the AFL-CIO brought together hundreds of Latino labor activists and members of local Latino labor committees to form LCLAA. The organization's founding conference was held in Washington, D.C., on November 16, 1973. LCLAA's first president was Ray Mendoza, a member of the Laborer's International Union of North America.

### STRUCTURE

LCLAA is governed by its members in accordance with the constitutions of LCLAA and the AFL-CIO. Membership is open to any union member, active or retired. The membership meets bi-annually on even-numbered years (a policy and education conference also is held in even-numbered years.) Representatives to the national meetings are elected by local LCLAA chapters, international unions, AFL-CIO state federations, certain large AFL-CIO central labor councils and certain qualifying local AFL-CIO unions on the basis of a complex yet proportional representation formula.

The Chicago Metro LCLAA chapter and its active statewide membership works with the Chicago Federation of Labor and the Illinois AFL-CIO to empower and educate workers throughout the State. Our chapter is one of the strongest and most vibrant chapters within National LCLAA.

Currently Chicago Metro LCLAA is the second largest chapter in the nation and is constantly working to grow and establish more chapters throughout the State of Illinois.

### OUR GOAL

It is the yearly goal of Chicago Metro LCLAA to:

- Build coalitions between Unions and the Latino community in order to promote an inclusive working family agenda.
- Promote civic participation by holding voter education and voter registration campaigns to register Latinos to vote.
- Work with Unions and the community to organize Latino workers so that they may have the freedom to join the union movement.
- Work with national organizations to advance the social, economic, political, human and civil rights of all Latinos.
- The Chicago Metro LCLAA has been very active in the civic engagement, education and enfranchisement of the Latino community. We have volunteered at numerous civic and charitable events and worked to include more Latinos in the political process. While LCLAA cannot work for or endorse specific political candidates, we work tirelessly on voter education and registration.

### LATINOS ARE VITAL TO THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN UNION MOVEMENT

Every day Latinos work to make America stronger. They energize the economy and strive to make better lives for themselves, their families, and their communities. Our mission is to improve their opportunities for success in achieving the American Dream.