

La Palabra

National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees



NHCFAE Post Conference Edition

2012
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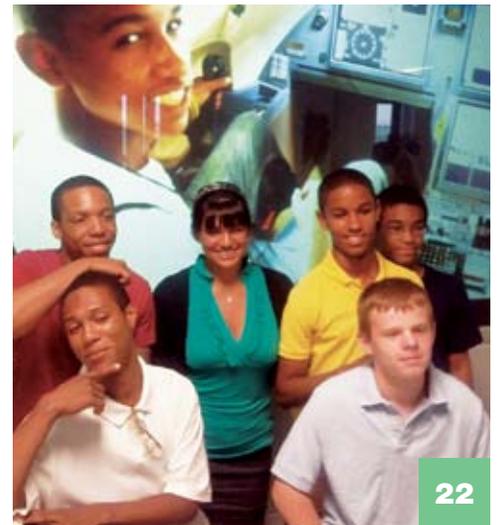
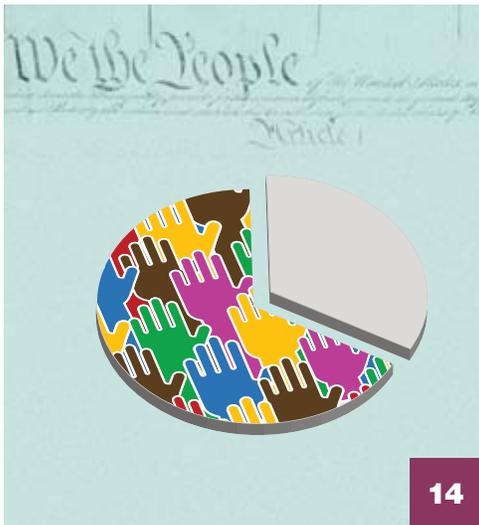
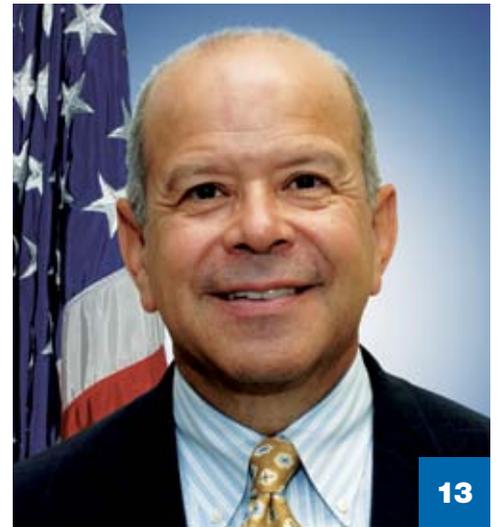
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National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees

“Con Orgullo en Nuestra Hispanidad”

NHCFAE
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Washington, DC 20026-3276
www.nhcfae.org

Mission

The National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees is a professional, diverse organization that focuses on advocating career placement and advancement through support, education and alliances.

History

Established in 1978 in an effort to provide a network for Hispanic employees of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Aviation Industry. It became a national organization in 1983. Today, the Coalition is the chief advocate for issues affecting Hispanics in the FAA. The Coalition derives its support from membership dues, corporate sponsorship and private donations.

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Director of Education, Raquel Ysasi-Huerta
Director of Public Affairs, Yadira Lacot
Director of Resources, Carmelo Borges

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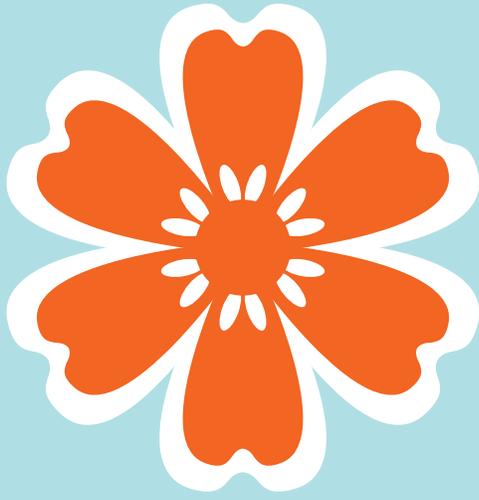
Yadira Lacot, Editor in Chief

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our 34th NHCFAE Annual Training Conference was a huge success. There are many ways to gauge “success.” The one barometer I use is the level of enthusiasm and engagement among members, participants, sponsors, presenters, and family. This year, more than in past years, I was able to personally meet, greet and speak with each member individually. We had lots of lively discussions and participation with the presenters and among each other, and we especially embraced our new members and those attending their first conference.

Miami offered a relaxed and beautiful venue for all to enjoy. Kudos to Ida Marrero for leading such a dynamic conference planning committee; excellent venue! Thank you to all who made it to Miami. I am grateful for all that I learned from my discussions with you. Special thanks goes out to our FAA Manager of the Year award winner, Mr. John Colomy from Central Region, Small Airplane Directorate, who together with his wife, Lana, came on their own time and resources to support our Organization. Ms. Mamie Mallory, Assistant Administrator, Office of Civil Rights received a “Thank You” Award for her extraordinary support of our organization. Finally, I would like to thank Roosevelt Lenard, NHCFAE President; Robin Rush, PWC President; and David Conley, FAAMA President for attending the conference and showing their support. These are the times when Employee and Manager Associations must remain united and show support to one another. Again, thank you!

I also want to take a moment and thank our sponsors. They stepped up and supported us through the difficult times. This conference would not have been possible without their collaboration and support. We definitely enjoyed their



presentations and for your benefit, we have placed all speakers’ presentations on our website under the Annual Conference Tab, 2012 Conference.

During our General Membership Meeting, we requested options for a 2013 conference location. Three RCDs presented to the membership: Southwest, Capital, and Western-Pacific Chapters. After voting, the membership chose Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas for the 2013 NHCFAE Annual Training Conference. It will be our 35th anniversary and we will definitely celebrate it like all in Texas: BIG! Therefore, I encourage you to please make sure to request your leave now for August 19 - 23, 2013. All the events that transpired prior this past conference made us aware that we can definitely hold a conference on our own. It will come with some challenges, but certainly possible. We are moving forward as a Coalition and as a familia and we hope to see you in Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas on August 19 - 23, 2013.

You have my commitment that we will do everything possible to get YOU there! We can’t be stopped. Juntos podemos y juntos seguimos adelante!

In gratitude,

Sadie P. Alvarado
President, NHCFAE



La Palabra Summer/Fall 2012: A Very Special Edition

Saludos familia!

This is a very special edition of La Palabra. Last year I had the opportunity to work on La Palabra post-conference in Washington, D.C. Now, off to my second post-conference edition: Miami, Florida. In this edition, and to my surprise, you will find various post-conference articles from our Executive Committee and new members. I have to say this year's conference was indeed a special one. These articles will reflect the amazing experience everyone felt after the conference. The sense of familia and Coalition was present at all times. I have never seen anything like it, and I'm very proud of it. We did it! We had an amazing conference!

A very special thanks goes to Nina Barker, Viviana Gonzalez and Lorena Salcedo for helping us with the conference program. From its inception to the printing, the process was smooth and seamless, even though we had multiple changes along the way due to the last minute circumstances. Thank you for your continuous support!

Thank you Southern Region and its Conference Committee for being a great host. I had the opportunity to meet new members, and now new friends. I had the honor of receiving the Officer of the Year award. Through tears, because I do cry a lot, I thank the Executive Board and Committee for their trust and support. I also thank my familia from the Capital Chapter and its leader, Carmelo Borges. He's a champ! Now, I'd like to thank every single one of you, whether I know you or not, for your continuous support, feedback and words of encouragement. I'm passionate about what I do; I am proud of being part of NHCFAE and represent "La Raza Latina." Gracias!!

One big THANK YOU to David Dominguez, our Director of

Resources. His term has come to an end, but will continue supporting the Coalition through our continuous Legislative efforts. I'll miss you bro!

Finally, congratulations to Don Espinosa and Raquel Ysasi-Huerta for their reelection to the Vice President and Director of Education positions, respectively. Welcome Carmelo Borges to the Director of Resources position.

Director of Public Affairs Projects

We have an updated website as of now! Please, go to www.nhcfae.org to check it out. If there's anything missing or a link that is not working, please send me an email to dopa@nhcfae.org. I truly appreciate your feedback!

The Communication Committee (Comm-Comm), chaired by Marina O'Sullivan and an amazing team of NHC members, had the opportunity to brief the survey results during the General Membership Committee. We heard you and we will take action. Our next steps will be working on immediate, short and long-term activities to improve and enhance our internal communication. Welcome Karen Perez and David Gonzales to the team. These are new members to the Coalition and have expressed interest in getting involved with our efforts.

Next Year's Conference: Texas!

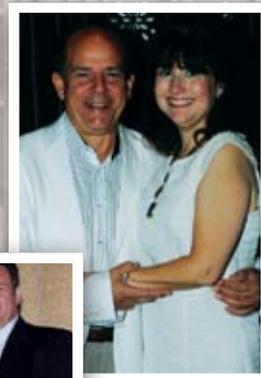
For the NHCFAE, the show will and must go on. Next year's conference is slated for August 19-23 in Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas. Rain, shine, funding or no funding, we will hold our 35th Annual Training Conference. Please, begin requesting/bidding your leave NOW!

I hope you enjoy this edition. Since this is for you, do not forget you can become a contributor for La Palabra. Just email me at dopa@nhcfae.org to get you started. Also, don't forget to friend us on Facebook. Just type NHCFAE on the search bar and you will find us.

Un abrazo,

Yadira Lacot
National Director of Public Affairs





34th NHCFAE National Training Conference Review

A Short Look at the 34th NHCFAE Training Conference

By Angel Cases Jr., Southwest Region

And what a conference it was. The NHCFAE Training Conference began with a bang!. Three days later the Executive Board brought the 34th Annual Training Conference to a close, with a formal banquet and fond farewells (and yes, dancing). We had some tense moments and a rocky start, but thanks to some gutsy decisions by our leadership, the conference was a great success. We had representation by all the Regions and/or Centers, including Alaska. Hello up there - I love you guys. Sometimes we forget where you are, but we never forget who you are. As a very warm and welcome surprise to me, the Southwest Region made up about ten percent of the attendees. This shows the support system we have in the Southwest Region, and we hope to capitalize on that.

A very politically driven move on the part of our FAA and DOT took center stage this year. I sometimes look at events with a bit of cynicism and a smile. To use a football analogy, the ball gets snapped and the next thing you know, the quarterback is sacked and you have a 10 yard loss. However, you get up, get back into formation, and do it again. This event had an incredible bright side. It forced us to look at our last 34 years of accomplishments and served as a reminder not only who we are but that we really need to support our Organization and nuestra familia. The support was evident based on the attendance. Three particular supporters stood out: Roosevelt Leonard, President of the NBCFAE; Robin Rush, President of PWC; and David Conley, President of FAAMA. It didn't take long for all that attended to conclude that we, the attendees, are the reason for the training conference; not the FAA. Not the DOT. We the members are the ones looking and asking for training to buttress or enhance our jobs so that we can better ourselves personally and professionally. This training and networking will put us in a better position and sometimes in the forefront to support our agency goals and in the process enhance our careers.

On a future note, a collaborative suggestion by our ASW Committee to have the next training conference here in Fort Worth was supported by not only my home court attendees, but a majority of the membership at the conference. So, as a preliminary reminder of what will be happening next year, the NHCFAE Southwest Region will be hosting the 35th NHCFAE Annual Training Conference right here in Fort Worth, Texas. Our committee will be leading this endeavor, but by no means are they alone. We have two very strong regional chapters and members scattered throughout the Southwest region. There is a saying "no good deed goes unpunished." I will tell you now that we will personally be contacting each and every one of you for your support and input. Your "punishment" for being a member and supporter of this great organization is that your opinion will be taken into account for next year's conference and in some cases a little of your time during the months between now and August.

I will write a quarterly piece as things begin to happen and our vision comes more into focus just to let everyone know how we are progressing. Look for me in our next edition as I will be keeping you posted.

Goals National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees 2012 Conference

By Jose W. Marrero, Deputy RCD, Eastern Region

Although just a week earlier things turned grim on whether the show would go on, the Southern Region came through. Ida Marrero and her team, pulled strings, made adjustments and whatever else it took, to ensure that the 2012 NHCFAE Annual Training Conference would not be a washout. Yes, it was missing some corporate sponsors and a few empty chairs here and there during the training sessions, despite of it all it was an enormous success. It proved that the NHCFAE "Familia" with its can do attitude can hurdle over obstacles placed by the environment, politics, finances and decisions of others.



These barriers offered a chance to prove our solidarity, commitment and strength to flank at a moments notice, accept the challenge and press on towards our goals.

As always, the training was informative, constructive and educational, and will affect my FAA career planning. The support from our sponsors was genuine and I ensured that I spoke with each to at least thank them for their support. The President of the NBCFAE was also present to support us during this snag in our program. My thanks also go to the new Assistant Administrator for Civil Rights, who replaced Fanny Rivera since her retirement, and demonstrated her support and attended "a la cart." The food "se dejaba comer." It was actually first class.

The accommodations were excellent at least on my behalf, with spectacular views of the Biscayne Bay. The Presidential Reception "White Party" was a huge success and a theme I feel we should adapt into our bylaws to make it a permanent part of our after hours networking program. Colors are optional as for the night life; several went to dinner in groups and enjoyed much of what downtown Miami has to offer and within walking distance at times. Others, like me, enjoyed the Olympics in their rooms, having cheese and crackers with a smooth glass of wine. The awards banquet was short, sweet and to the point, which left more time for the music. Ahhh, the music, makes me want to dance just thinking about it.

There was a tiny glitch during the opening ceremony's National Anthem, but this only secured in stone the drive and determination of the Latin Community. To have the talent, knowledge and opportunity to perform to the best of your abilities, and to know you can take a step to breathe and continue on. I commend the soloist.

As for those who could not join us in Miami for the 2012 NHCFAE Training Conference, hope you can make it to Texas in 2013. See you then.

Finally, my thanks to the NHCFAE President Sadie Alvarado, the Executive Committee and the Southern Region RCD and Conference Chair Ida Marrero, and her team for their can do attitude and a job well done.

Con mucho Orgullo.

Gracias

NHCFAE: A True Coalition 2012 Annual Training Conference in Miami

By Oscar Torres, Southern Region Conference Committee

When you look up the definition of the word coalition you will find the following: "A coalition is a pact or treaty among individuals or groups, during which they cooperate in a joint action, each joining forces together for a common cause." Our 2012 Annual Training Conference held in Miami, Florida was the perfect example to define the word coalition.

As many of you know, the NHCFAE was placed in a very unique situation literally days prior to the start of our conference, when the agency announced that it would pull its support. A big last minute change to an event with almost a year in the planning can turn off the lights for any event, but not for the NHCFAE. The Executive Board led by our President Sadie P. Alvarado voted unanimously to continue on with the conference and, at the end, it was the best decision for the Coalition and most importantly for our members. Despite the adversities that were presented, throughout the whole conference there was a sense of unity among all attendees. The President of the National Black Coalition for Federal Aviation Employees (NBCFAE), Roosevelt Lenard Jr.; the President of the Professional Women Controllers (PWC), Robin Rush; and the President of the FAA Managers Association (FAAMA), David Conley, showed their solidarity to our Coalition by being present throughout the conference. Ms. Rush also enlightened us with her presentation on ATO Leadership Career Development. Mentoring and development was definitely on the agenda as our very own Kimberly Castillo from the Capital Chapter arranged for CTI students from Miami Dade College to visit us at the conference. We were able to provide these students some mentoring from not only our Air Traffic Controllers, but also from our members from Tech Ops, Human Resources and Engineering. The event was a huge success and the students very happy to learn about our organization and our mission. Our membership received their own mentoring as well, as we held mentoring sessions led by Managers who provided their vast experience and suggestions to create a career path for development in the agency. This session was also a great success.

The General Membership was also hard at work as changes and amendments to our Constitution and Bylaws were discussed



in great detail and voted on. Ideas were exchanged and as the debate continued, it brought all of us even closer together. The membership also voted on where to hold our next year's conference. After great presentations by the Western-Pacific Chapter, that proposed Los Angeles and the Capital Chapter, that proposed Washington, D.C., the membership voted to hold the conference in the Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas area. There is no doubt that the Southwest Chapter will do a phenomenal job and they can count on the support from all the other chapters who have hosted conferences in the past. We look forward to see everyone there.

Despite the adversities, the common cause for the week was to have a successful conference and our speakers and corporate sponsors also joined the effort in adjusting their schedules and presentations to meet the changes that had to be made at the last minute. Our Conference Committee led by Ida Marrero, Southern Region RCD, worked tirelessly from start to finish ensuring that every detail was taken care of. I am proud to have been part of that committee team that really pulled it off in a very big way. From the amazing hotel accommodations, to the delicious food, the final night reception closing ceremony, to a riveting closure of solely unity amongst the familia and friends.

As I departed Miami, I came to the conclusion that the warmth I felt throughout the entire conference was not attributed to the Miami weather. The joining of our forces, our joint actions and our belief in the mission created that warmth as our Familia came together in one of the toughest times for our organization, and together we redefined the word "Coalition."

Nos vemos en Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas in August 20-22, 2013.

Speakers' presentations are available on the NHCFEA website, under the Annual Conference tab.

THE POWER OF PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

Laura Morales, Founder of Energize Your Outlook

This presentation will help you understand the power of professional communication via the means of social media avenues, such as Linked In and Facebook. Objectives of this session include how to effectively develop your profile for potential positions you seek.

YOUR ROADMAP TO SUCCESS

Andrea Stone, CEO, Dynamic Pro Inc.

This presentation will help you define your own personal roadmap for success. You will learn appropriate leadership and coaching techniques that best leverage your experience and background. In addition, you will learn skills to be able to inventory your resources, develop a personal action plan that encourages your commitment and accountability, and find opportunities to celebrate success and accomplishments.

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

Kimberly Castillo, NHCFEA Capital Chapter Member

This training identifies the value and the positive impact of goal setting, tracking an individual's accomplishments, and showcases ways to help maintain a competitive edge among job applicants. Participants will gather organizational strategies using a professional tool kit. Hear a testimony from Kimberly Castillo, a member of the National Capital Chapter, National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees, on how this professional tool kit helped her start and advance in her career... And how it can help you too!

BATTLING URBAN LEGENDS

Mike Fernandez, Corporate Vice President, Cargill Inc.

Perceptions and urban legends are too often shaping the views of millions about who we are and what we do in America. The constant media cycle and personal biases shape what people think about the institutions we work for and who we are as Hispanics. One of the nation's foremost experts in communications and crisis management with a long history in politics and corporate America shares his expertise on how we can become better communicators, and how we can bust a few myths along the way.

HOW TO MAKE DIVERSITY WORK FOR YOU

Martha Kampen, Founder of Kampen Consultant, LLC.

In this changing world, much is being done to support and encourage cultural diversity and inclusion in the workplace. This workshop focuses on the culturally identified minority [Hispanic] professional, manager, and employee. Specific emphasis is made in providing insight to their culturally unique strengths, skills,



traits and values which can be incorporated into the workplace for positive contribution. We will explore how to apply these attributes in their work environment, providing tips and tools to use and advice on when to use them. Knowledge will be affirmed through interactive role-play.

One Week of Seeking Opportunities and Celebrating Achievements

By Karla Hernandez, Northwest Mountain Region

One week of seeking opportunities and celebrating achievements is how I really felt during our 2012 National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employee (NHCFAE) conference in Miami, Florida. I've been with the agency for 16 years and throughout these years I've had wonderful opportunities to grow and succeed in my career. I feel very blessed, especially being a member of the NHCFAE Organization. I'm proud to be Hispanic and represent!

I've been a member for about 15 years and as a member, I never realized how much organizing and planning the Conference Committee of the Coalition did and how much volunteer time they put into to make things happen, such as the annual conferences and other events. I started working for the FAA in the Western Pacific region; I was there for about 10 years until I was relocated to the Northwest Mountain region, Seattle, Washington, with the Air Traffic Organization in 2006. My very first Coalition conference I attended was in Seattle in 2005. Little did I know I was going live there the following year.

My experience during the Seattle conference was really nice, but I had only attended as a non-active member, as well as the second conference I attended in Las Vegas in 2007. This year I was asked to represent the Regional Chapter Director for the Northwest Mountain Region at the Miami conference. Unfortunately, the Coalition hit some bumps along the road to make the conference happen. The Coalition was challenged but determined to make this happen! I had never felt so overwhelmed on planning a trip like this one, but what a success it turned out to be and I was happy and honored to represent our region.

My experience with this year's conference was way different than my previous ones. My first day with the Executive Committee members was amazing. Since the very first day we met, I no longer felt I was being asked to represent but instead I felt an opportunity was given to me to be part of the Executive Committee during that time. As I sat amongst the other Executive Committee members, I experienced a different perspective. I was no longer just a member that really didn't know all the meat and gritty behind the Organization. I felt so proud to be part of a very strong and smart team.

At the end of the conference I felt refreshed and with lots of energy to bring back to my Region and do more than just wait and have everything been handed to me. I hope to definitely contribute more to the Committee and to the Organization overall. I encourage anyone, whether you are a member or not, to start giving a little of your time to represent high in whatever region you may be. If you're not a member I encourage you to consider becoming one and start Now! I definitely know that I can count on the Organization for support, network and leadership opportunities. I think I'm safe to speak for everyone when I say that we believe this will be one conference we will never forget. I know for a fact Miami has a piece of my heart!

Overall my opportunities are being presented in front of me and it is up to me to take them and definitely celebrate my achievements at the end of the day. Amigos... until next time: Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas 2013!

The Power of One

By Bill Fernandez, Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center RCD

Based on the circumstances that led up to our convention in Miami, it has become readily apparent that as an organization we can no longer count on the assistance of the agency to help us meet our primary objectives of improving the representation of Hispanics in the Federal Aviation Administration. It could be a very daunting task to do this all on our own, but as I thought about our options, I kept coming up with various ideas and thoughts that all came down to "The Power of One."



On the Saturday before leaving for Miami, I worked the FAA's booth at the ¡Viva Oklahoma! Job Fair and Expo here in Oklahoma. Unfortunately, it was more Expo than Job Fair and there were few true applicants. But, there was one, and he kind of inspired this idea of the "Power of One."

His name is Fernando, he is a Navy officer stationed here in Oklahoma City and he came to our booth looking to make a career change. Now this is a very drastic decision for someone to make. Fernando has 16 years in the Navy and would only be 4 years away from retirement, but the Navy wants to send him to a new assignment and Fernando does not want to uproot his family.

As a father, I can understand his plight and this is where the Power of One comes in. I am going to try and dedicate myself to helping Fernando get a job in government, hopefully in the FAA but any government job will help Fernando and his family. If Fernando can get a government job, his 16 years in the Navy can be used to help Fernando with his annual leave and he can buy back those 16 years towards a Federal retirement.

Now think about this, if I can help Fernando get a job, if each of us can help just one other Hispanic find a career in the FAA, what could that do to our representation. Just ONE Hispanic helping ONE other Hispanic.

While at ¡Viva Oklahoma!, I also met a woman who is in charge of HOPE (Hispanic Organization to Promote Education) at Oklahoma City Community College and we discussed opportunities our Aeronautical Center NHCFAE Chapter might be able to help their organization. They are looking for Hispanic professionals to come and talk to their young people about career opportunities. Again, if I, just one person, can help just one young Hispanic find a career in aviation... If you could help just one young Hispanic find a career in the FAA, together we can make a difference.

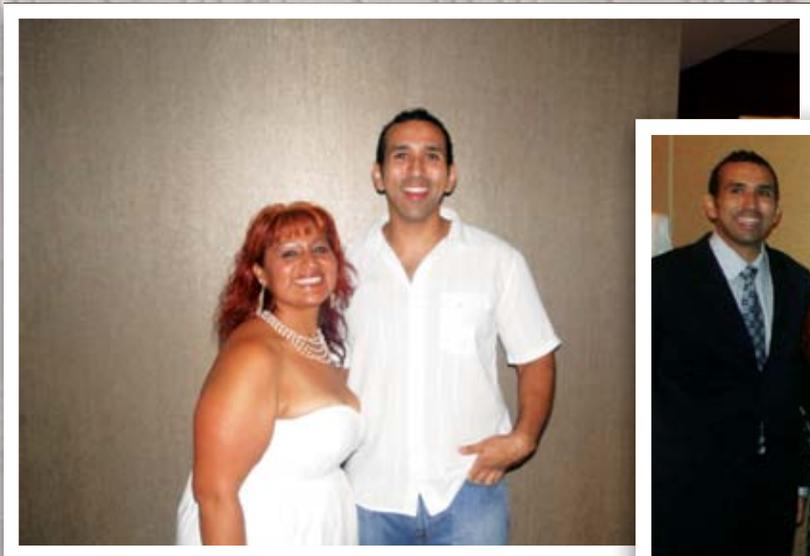
There is one other way I thought about the "Power of One", and that is through our congressional system. As an organization, we have participated of legislative efforts to help our organization navigate the complex politics of Washington, D.C., to put pressure on the FAA to work on improving the Hispanic representation in the agency. But this cannot be our only plan.

If just one of us can get our Congressman/woman or senators champion our cause could raise the awareness of our under representation in the agency. Our representatives in Congress are much more likely to listen to you, who can cast a vote for them, than some organization no matter how just their cause is.

There are several Hispanic members of Congress, but they do not necessarily have to be Hispanic. If they are in an area that has high Hispanic representation, they are going to be looking for opportunities to tell prospective voters how they helped support Hispanic organizations. You, ask them to help us. You can find out who your Representative is at <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/> simply type in your zip code and it will tell you who your Congressman is. Click on their name and it will take you to their website.

I recently saw a program about a little girl who wanted to raise money to help people in Africa get fresh water. So I "googled" "little girl raises money" and I found dozens of stories about little girls raising money for causes. A 5th grader raises \$70,000 for birds, an 8 year old raising money for the homeless, a 9 year old with a lemonade stand... little girls, one person trying to make a difference.

So I am challenging myself, to be that one person. I challenge you, to be that one person. Whether it is helping just one other person, or getting others to help, we can make a difference. The Power of One!



Western-Pacific Shares this Year's Conference Experiences

By Susie Diaz, Western-Pacific, RCD

By Guadalupe M. Retana, Western-Pacific Associate Member

“Love, Love... Mi NHC familia! Muchísimas gracias por esta experiencia. Besides everything that happened, I can truly say that we all made a great decision on continuing with our annual conference. Great decision NHC Familia!

One of my most memorable experiences were I felt goose bumps and had a teary eye was when we were all saluting the flag and singing the “Star Spangle Banner.” When we all joined together and sang together as a familia. In this moment, it hit me and said to myself: “wow, this is what familia does when someone needs help.” Yes, we are there to help each other and give each other a hand when we need it.

Each year is a different experience for me. This year was different in a way that I can't describe, but truly felt united; si, como la familia que somos. I can truly say that I'm so proud to be part of this amazing organization!

Each mentor and speaker that we had was excellent and enjoyed everything they taught us throughout the week.

Last but not least, it is still surreal that I have gone this far with my chapter. Wow, really? My chapter won Chapter of the Year! Wow!! I'm proud to have an amazing team that I can count on. Gracias! I'm proud to say, “Si Se Puede”. Yes, We Did It! Congrats Western-Pacific!”

“This was my first NHCFAE Conference and I can say everybody made a great first impression on me. My personal favorite session was the mentor session with Bill Fernandez, Rafael Escobedo and Steven Villanueva, as I realized how many similarities I have with all them. Having this experience was important, mainly because I was able to hear about issues such as recruiting, retirement, programs offered by FAA and their business affiliates. That week gave me a wealth of information to get my career started the right way. Now I'm aware of the variety of options that are available in technical operations, air traffic and flight inspections. The site seeing, good food and good times was all a bonus. Everybody who I met at this event had a genuine desire to progress and help out their fellow members. I am more than proud to associate myself with the NHCFAE and will continue for the oncoming years.”



Interview with FAA Acting Administrator

Michael Huerta

By Yadira Lacot, Director of Public Affairs

I had the opportunity to interview Acting Administrator Huerta, as part of Executive Leadership Program requirements of interviewing five Executives. The interview was scheduled for 30 minutes only. However, Mr. Huerta really got into it and we ended up talking for an hour, and then scheduling 30 more minutes on another day. He was very open and approachable. Hope you enjoy the article.

Michael P. Huerta is the current Acting Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration. Prior to being appointed Acting Administrator, Mr. Huerta was the first Hispanic Deputy Administrator in the FAA. If confirmed, he will become the newly appointed and second Hispanic FAA Administrator.

Mr. Huerta is second generation Hispanic and was born and raised in Riverside, California. He comes from a modest family that started working in the U.S as orange pickers. His dad was a furniture store employee and his mom, a librarian. His parents always stressed the importance of education, making each of the kids (three sisters and one son) attend and graduate from college.

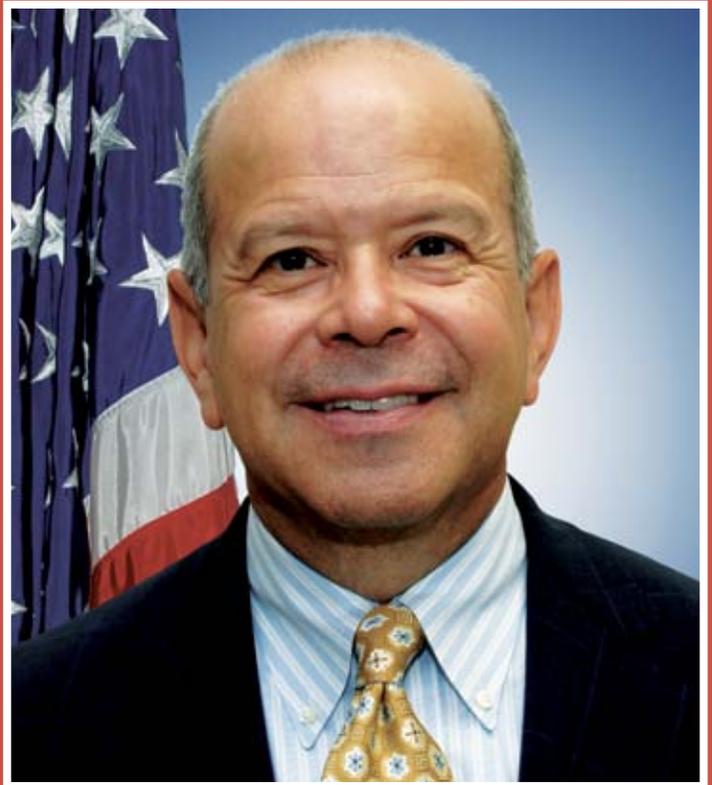
After his undergraduate in Political Science, he went onto a two-year graduate program in International Relations at Princeton University. He had an internship opportunity with the U.S. Embassy to NATO in Brussels. That was when he requested a passport for the first time, but also when he understood that Diplomacy wasn't his forte. He graduated in 1980 and went to work for an accounting consulting firm in the areas of airlines, international trade administration, and budget analysis.

Later on his career and only 29 years old, Mr. Huerta became the Commissioner of Ports and Terminals for New York City. This position allowed Mr. Huerta to work closely with airports and aviation. After this position, he accepted the position of Associate Deputy Secretary for the Office of Intermodal, at the Department of Transportation, which increased his visibility and knowledge of the Federal Aviation Administration.

When asked about leadership and success, Mr. Huerta expressed that leadership is the difference between managing and leading. Leaders do the right thing, exercise good judgment, understand the long term vision, and are able to motivate others to follow their lead. Recognition is also an important trait of a leader.

One of the questions was what kind of advice he would offer others about career progression. He started with: 1) don't put limits – his parents never did, 2) feel free to explore your passions; realize hope and dreams, 3) never forget where you come from, 4) reach out a hand and provide advice, 5) think about the broader community; leverage talents as a community, and 6) shape what you can bring; being part of something larger.

I asked Mr. Huerta how he handles conflict. He responded with an example while he was the Port Director in San Francisco – another of his many work experiences. He was tasked to build a hotel in the



San Francisco waterfront. He faced a lot of community opposition, to the point the project went to a ballot, and he lost. He realized that if he would've listened to what the community was requesting, he would've been able to build more than just a hotel. He was just focused on advancing his position. His lesson on conflict is basic: listen to all parties involved first, and then make a wise decision.

I also asked him about diversity and inclusion in the agency. He explained that diversity is not just meeting a number, it's being sensitive and knowledgeable of other cultures and celebrate them. Diversity is more than just having two of everyone (the Noah's Arc lesson). Diversity is building a community, where we understand the cultures and how they affect how we interact.

As for FAA initiatives around diversity and inclusion, he praised the appointment of Mamie Mallory as the Assistant Administrator for Civil Rights. He called her a great leader and role model. She is spearheading the Barrier Analysis project and also working on having a better representation during the hiring process.

He also praised all the work Employee Associations are doing. Mr. Huerta stated that the Employee Forum is an important group that meets quarterly to discuss employees' issues and provide solutions, to then convey the message to their membership. In addition, He commended the National Hispanic Coalition for all the data collecting we have done.

Overall, the interview was excellent. He is very warm and talks with a smile on his face. I think it was a great opportunity to interview the number one in the FAA, and although his time is limited, he made sure I had another opportunity to finish my questions. Coming from humble upbringings to the position he now holds, is a sign of great leadership and also good judgment. When I asked about any advice for me on career progression within the FAA, he simply said: do not be shy and network.

We the People

Changes to Your Constitution and Bylaws

By Bill Fernandez

Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center, RCD

At this year's training conference we made several changes to our Bylaws and a change to our Constitution. This year, I submitted several changes to the Bylaws along with the Executive Boards submission.

There were four primary areas for the changes. Changes to the status of our retired members, changes in the election process to make it more transparent, define the Standing Committees and define what is a member in good standing.

For our retired members, previously, once an individual retired from the FAA, they would no longer be able to be an active member of the NHCFAE. Instead they would revert to an associate membership and would lose the right to vote in elections and to hold any offices in the Coalition.

The Executive Board felt that by doing this, the NHCFAE lost valuable resources. In fact, in meeting with the National Black Coalition we found out that their National Vice-President, Billy Clark is retired from the FAA and now devotes himself to NBCFAE affairs almost full time.

Minor changes were made to allow retired members to retain their rights to vote and hold office in the NHCFAE. There were also some minor adjustments to the dues structure for both Retired and Associate members.

The second area of change was in the election process. Several changes were made to improve the transparency of the election process. For example, members will no longer sign their secret ballot, which would theoretically make any ballot traceable. In addition, changes in how the ballots would be handled once they're received will make the process verifiable, while ensuring anonymity of ballots themselves.

The third area of change was to define each of the standing committees. Previously, Article 11A simply listed what the standing committees were. Now, each standing committee is defined with an objective, how the committee was to be formed, including how the Committee Chair was to be selected.

In the section for the Election Committee, the membership agreed that the Election Committee would be made up of an individual selected by each candidate for national office. This way every candidate would have someone they feel they could trust to verify that all processes during the election were fair and honest. This is another section that was added to ensure transparency in the election process.

Lastly, the membership agreed to language that established exactly "What is a member in good standing?" Throughout our Constitution and Bylaws (CB&L) we have language that addresses a "Member in Good Standing" and now we have identified what that means.

to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice
and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves
and our Posterity.

Two ways we can Change our Constitution

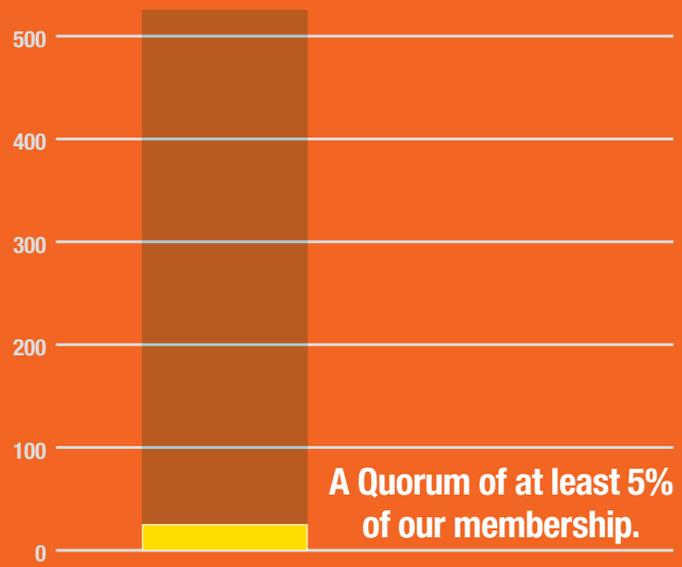


A 2/3 Vote at a Regular or Special Meeting

For those of you that were not able to attend the Constitution and Bylaws portion of the conference, the amendments to the CB&L were presented to the membership. Since we had a quorum (which is 5% of the membership as per Article 6A section 8 of our Bylaws), we were able to discuss and make minor grammatical changes to the proposed language and finally we voted on each amendment. I would like to thank everyone that participated in the process; we were able to make solid progress because of it.

You will notice through out this article I refer to our Constitution and Bylaws, because they belong to each and every member, and you can help mold them into a document that has meaning. If you feel that a part of our CB&L needs changing let us know, or better yet, submit your idea to the membership and we can help you craft it into language that helps lead us. Email me at cbl@nhcfae.org

See the changes to the Constitution and Bylaws at: www.nhcfae.org/about-us/constitution-bylaws/



My First Year as DOA

By Erik Salazar, National Director of Administration

It's hard to believe that I have already completed my first year on the Executive Board as Director of Administration for the NHCFAE! Time flies when you're having fun, I guess! I'm thankful for this opportunity to serve the Coalition and meet so many wonderful members. This year's conference in Miami reminded me what it's all about, familia. We throw that word around quite a bit, but it's honestly what the Coalition is: a great big family. Yes, we all disagree from time to time, but that only makes this family stronger and more united.

When I first decided to run for National Office, I knew that it would be time-consuming, but did not know how much time the Coalition would really consume! The Executive Board holds two monthly telecons, meets once a quarter for a week... that's four week-long meetings over the course of a year... which adds up to an entire month away from our families and jobs! And this does not even include all the personal time that each Officer puts in working on their Coalition duties and projects. We all have full-time jobs, families and social lives, and still consider it an honor and duty to fulfill these volunteer positions. I wouldn't have it any other way.

When I reflect on the things that I have contributed to the Coalition in the past year, I believe I have made a major impact by strengthening the communication between the Executive Committee and the membership by sending out meeting minutes that are thorough, relevant and timely. These minutes are designed to inform the membership

on what your Officers are doing so you can stay involved. One of the biggest struggles for any large organization is communication, which is why I am glad that we have a new Communications Committee that is helping to address our needs.

I'm also pleased to announce the roll-out of a new Action Item Log that we've been developing for a few months now. This log will help the Officers remain accountable and remind them of specific due dates. Like any good Project Manager will tell you, an action item log is the key to success for keeping a project on task.

The coming year looks to be another successful one for the Coalition. One that could prove itself to be challenging budget-wise, but we are a resourceful group and will find a way to carry on our mission. I look forward to serving another year on the Board. I look forward to keeping you informed of what we are doing to achieve our mission of a professional, diverse organization that focuses on advocating career placement and advancement through support, education and alliances.





My ELP...The Arrival

By Bernice Merly, Technical Center DoR

¡Hola mi gente! Can you believe this journey has come to an end? On the Winter 2011 edition I shared with you how my departure on my Executive Leadership Program (ELP) journey was. While in EnRoute, Spring 2012 edition, I told you how instrumental La Palabra and the FAA Daily Broadcasts were in the expansion of my personal network. And now here I am arriving in Towson, MD, for my final destination of this ELP journey: Graduation!

The last nine months have been extremely educational. Though ELP is this invaluable tool in the journey towards management, I got an unexpected outcome. I was able to look at myself...well, I really should say: I allowed myself to look within my own self. I took the blinders off my eyes and took a good look at all the opportunities I was letting get away from me. I am very proud of my accomplishments. I managed to fulfill all the ELP graduation requirements and here I am at the end of this journey. Sounding completely cliché, I now depart in this new adventure where I will implement all this personal insight to my professional life.

I do sound very bogus, don't I? It is on purpose. I learned about me by myself. Only I can understand the knowledge I acquired but I can tell you this; you do NOT need ELP to shadow or interview a manager, neither to do a developmental assignment (better known to many of us as: Details), etc. You do have all the tools available already, the only additional component you need is your determination to do it. This might not necessarily be a walk in the park, but it is not impossible either. It will surprise you how easy things are at times, when YOU ASK!

At graduation, Dr. Wilson Felder, Director of William J. Hughes Technical Center, was recognized for all the ELP students from the Technical Center he has supported over the years.

The NHCFAE Executive Board, your Regional Officers, La Palabra Magazine, FAA Daily Broadcast, etc. are here to support you in every step of your journey. All you have to do is open yourself to the possibilities.

Returning to the NHCFAE Familia!

Interview with Julie Carrión

By Roberto Villa, Technical Center Chapter RCDD

In the Autumn 2011 edition of La Palabra we learned of Rene Matos' legacy & accomplishments not only professionally but also his contributions to the National Hispanic Coalition. During the Spring 2012 Technical Center chapter's membership drive, I had the pleasure to meet Julie Carrión when she became interested to join the NHCFAE. In a brief conversation with her I learned she was Rene's Secretary and had been a member back then. Welcome back Julie to the familia.

Julie, please tell us a little about yourself.

I was named Julia H. Carrión, but I prefer to use "Julie" and was born in Gurabo, Puerto Rico. I came to the United States when I was 10 years old and lived in a little town named Middletown, Connecticut. At the age of 15, I went back to Puerto Rico with my family. I am always proactive and I love learning new skills whether at work or home.

How long have you been with the FAA & how did you start?

I have been working here at the Technical Center for approximately 23 years. I was working with the Veteran Administration in the Linwood, New Jersey area. I saw a position being announced for a Secretary at the William J. Hughes Technical Center, and I applied.

When did you become Rene's Secretary & how was it working with him?

I came to work with the National Airspace System (NAS) Division in June 1992 with Hughes Milligan. A few months later Mr. Milligan was promoted to another position and Rene Matos became the new Branch Manager for NAS. I was his Secretary from 1992 until he passed away in 1996. Working with Rene was a challenge for me. He was very meticulous with his work and always striving for the best. If I had change a word for some reason, I had to be prepared to explain to him why I changed it. He was very strict and very professional with his job. However, he was also a very good listener and usually gave all of us a good advice, whether it was about career advances or just personal problems. I remember a particular time where I was going through a very rough time in my life and he was there with me until all was resolved (I truly miss him very much). He was born to be a leader!

Was Rene a big influence to you in joining the NHCFAE originally?

Here at the Technical Center, Rene was a vivid example of what NHCFAE stood for and its purpose. He was involved with the Coalition for many years and was also the President at one point. I joined the NHCFAE because I saw the passion he had for the Organization. He had a dream to make it equal for all and for everyone no matter what nationality or culture ethnicity one came from, he wanted for all to prosper in the FAA as a whole family. He fought for the Technical Center Chapter very hard because he believed that we all are equals. After he passed away I was having many issues and sought help from the NHCFAE - I hate to say it but I felt I did not receive any help at all and became discontent with the Organization so I withdrew from it. But, now that I had all this time to reflect, I have come to understand that I was the one who was wrong. The NHCFAE did all they could do under the circumstances.

So, after all this time what sparked your interest in coming back to NHCFAE?

I thought that the best way I can honor René A. Matos was to return to his beloved NHCFAE Chapter here at the William J. Hughes Technical Center and help in any possible way to continue with the Chapter he created. In that way I will be honoring his memory and his work was not in vain.

I understand you are currently on a detail working as one of Dr. Wilson Felder's (Technical Center Director) executive administrative assistants. How challenging is this in comparison with your prior position?

It is very challenging, although I have been working for the Laboratories Services Division most of my career. I am very happy to have the opportunity to put into use my skills and knowledge that I have obtained through all these years in a good useful manner here at the Director's office. I love to be occupied and at the same time I am learning new abilities. I am a people person, I love to be around others and this detail has exposed me to many levels of personalities, such as, executives at higher levels in Washington, DC, Headquarter Division Managers, and other international callers and visitors. I am surrounded by people who want to see me succeed and I love it!! It is a very challenging position with attention to the detail (I learned from Mr. Matos to "take the challenge" and do the best you can, that way you will acquire knowledge and see is not that bad at all!).

It is a great pleasure meeting you and we are glad you came back to the Familia. I hope to get to know you a lot more and share upcoming events with you. Is there anything you would like to add or say?

I would like to thank you for the interview and also for bringing me good memories from a very well loved person: Rene, he will always be alive in our memories, and today we honor him by remembering him with this interview. I am grateful for his legacy of his NHCFAE Technical Center Chapter and for how much we loved him as a manager and as a friend.





Latest accomplishments from Dallas-Fort Worth Area Chapter

By Lydia Gomez Martinez, Southwest Chapter Member

I was honored at the National Conference in Miami with the 2012 Member of the Year Award. This was truly an unexpected surprise! I started as a Coalition member in 1987, while I interned with the Agency as a high school student. The National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees (NHCFAE) has allowed me to meet and learn from so many people. Thank you to Lina Ortiz and to Ilia Quiñones for taking me under their wing and mentoring me! Being involved with the Coalition has helped me to grow and gave me the opportunity to give back by reaching out to student in high school. I take it upon myself to let them know there is more 'out there' and not to give up. This is my passion and I am able to express this through the NHCFAE. I can proudly say that being part of the NHCFAE has help me to get to where I am today, so from the bottom of my BIG TEXAS heart, THANK YOU!!!

On May 3, 2012, the NHCFAE, Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) Chapter hosted a Cinco de Mayo celebration at the FAA Southwest (ASW) Regional Office. It featured the 'Mariachi Espuelas de Plata' students of North Side High School, in Fort Worth, and included a special guest, Mario Macias, from nearby North Richland High School. The students entertained

employees throughout the regional office for approximately 45 minutes. We had a turn out of 60 FAA employees and guests enjoy a lunch in the Regional Office cafeteria courtesy of the DFW Chapter.

This year we had an opportunity to support and sponsor Mario Macias by paying for his registration fee to attend a week-long training camp in San Antonio, Texas with the "Mariachi de Vargas". Mario will be returning in December and will be competing for the top Mariachi vocalist in the US. Best of Luck to Mario!

On July 28, 2012, the DFW Chapter held a Member Appreciation/ Recruitment Event, where we were again enlightened by the talent of the Mariachi Group. The Chapter awarded the mariachi group a scholarship to help support their participation in a competition they attended in Orange County, California in August where they placed in 2nd place. They were one of two groups participating from Texas. The 'Mariachi Espuelas de Plata' singers and musicians are indeed a very talented group of students! Mario Macias will be joining the group during the Fall and we are looking forward to more functions.

We Are Associates and We Are Supportive

By Daniel Ibañez, Héctor Gaud, & Héctor Bonilla—Technical Center Chapter Associate Members



Daniel Ibañez, Software Engineer: Hi! My name is Daniel Ibañez and I'm a Software Engineer working for ASRC Research and Technology Solutions supporting the FAA-WJH Technical Center. I work on the Terminal area of NAS for the AJT-145 Automation Engineering Team. The group I support is responsible for researching, designing and implementing solutions to make the day to day operations of Air Traffic Controllers (ATC) a more helpful automated process.

My team is involved in all phases of the software development cycle all the way from product requirements to customer interaction and support. This exposure to the NAS and our customers serve as well to have a better insight and understanding of the real needs of ATCs. It is with this knowledge and our expertise that we are able to produce efficient solutions to our customers. Among the solutions we provide is Advanced Electronic Flight Strip System (AEFS). This software system is an innovative solution to the current paper flight strip system. In the coming years all paper flight strips currently used by ATCs will be replaced by their electronic counterparts, and it is AEFS that is at the forefront of this exciting transition.

As an experienced Software Engineer having worked on multiple industries, I can say that I have thoroughly enjoyed working supporting the FAA-WJH Technical Center and I'm always on the lookout for exciting opportunities within the FAA.



Hector Gaud, Computer Scientist: Hola! My name is Hector Gaud and I am a Computer Scientist working for EnRoute Computer Solutions (ECS) supporting the FAA-WJH Technical Center in New Jersey. I work for the test team that provides support to the TMA/TBFM EnRoute System under the SOS 8 contract. The team that I work with is responsible for testing the newest software and adaptations to make sure issues are found before they are sent out to the 20 TMA/TBFM sites.

I am responsible for evaluating and recommending test materials and documentation: test procedures, test plans, test reports and other associated test documentation in accordance with system requirements. My testing experience has included all phases of the product lifecycle; appropriate standards, processes, procedures, tools, requirement definition/analysis, requirement decomposition, requirement traceability, system test and maintenance. I have been supporting the TMA/TBFM En Route system for 13 years and based on my knowledge and experience I have evaluated and recommended better methods of testing. My recommendations have been implemented and successfully verified during formal testing.

I consider myself very fortunate and I am very proud to work for the FAA and for been an Associate Member of the National Hispanic Coalition. I honestly appreciate the opportunity the FAA is giving me to be part of the best Air Traffic Control System in the World. This is awesome!



Hector Bonilla, Desktop Support Technician: Hello my name is Hector Bonilla, I am a Tier II Desktop Support Technician working for ActioNet and supporting the FAA-WJH Technical Center. I work with the desktop group supporting all FAA-ATO users, computers and networked devices. My job is to troubleshoot and resolve issues that have been reported and escalated from National Service Center. I do this by providing desk side support or using various methods I can perform remotely.

Today we are looking towards the future as we prepare to migrate all of our users to Windows 7. As part of our preparations we have been testing and creating a working image. I am personally involved in preparing and configuring the various images required for all of the different computer models that we support; by doing this we will ensure that the deployment process is both smooth and efficient. We have also been pilot testing wireless network devices such as laptops, tablets and smartphones. However, preparing and testing cutting edge technology is not all we do. We have been working to increase the security by deploying Personal Identification Verification cards and readers. We make sure every PC is configured compatible with the PIV system.

Some of my team's more day to day tasks include life cycling hardware, preparing and configuring PC's for new employees, and proactively maintaining over 3,000 computers. I've enjoyed my time as well as the experience I've gained working at the FAA-WJH Technical Center. In the future I would like to move to Florida, and if possible continue to support the FAA.



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Where the Future of Aviation Takes Flight

By Mike Valdes, Director of Resources, Great Lakes Region



The two biggest events in the Great Lakes Region are Hispanic Heritage Month and A.C.E. Camp. Aviation Careers Education Camp in Great Lakes Region is the biggest camp in the nation. It is recognized and sponsored by several non-profit organizations. Four years ago we partnered with the National Black Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees (NBCFAE). Together we have worked to make this camp known for the experience and the knowledge the kids will acquire. The last few years we held the camp from Sunday to Saturday on the last week of July. This year we were forced to cut back two days due to budget constraints. Even with the two day reduction we still managed to educate our kids and give them the experience of a lifetime.

This year started off with Monday, July 23 where kids came in from as far west as California and as far east as New York. Our camp counselors went to Midway Airport and O'Hare Airport to pick up our recruits for this year. We had some local campers as well. At about 8 a.m. we quickly went over the guidelines and rules of what was going to take place that week. Right after, the students said farewell to their parents, we assigned them dorm room keys so they can get a chance to introduce themselves to each other. From there, the students had lunch to get ready for their first class in Aviation Weather provided by Lewis University professor, Mr. Parrot. Following the Weather class, the students had the chance to meet Robert Holmes from Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals (OBAP). He spoke to the students about the history of OBAP and the minority influence in Aviation. OBAP is one of our sponsors supporting our ACE Camp here in Chicago.

Immediately after the students learned how several minorities including the Tuskegee Airman made an impact in aviation, we jumped right into air traffic control. The students received a quick introduction to air traffic control from some of our best controllers from Chicago Executive (PWK), Chicago TRACON (C90), Chicago Midway (MDW) and Chicago O'Hare (ORD). Little did

they know they will be using it all in a few days. The following day, they started off learning how to read navigation instruments on an aircraft and how to use a map for VFR navigation. We asked them if they knew how to play video games and all of them started telling us about all the games they knew how to play. So we challenged them to see who can take off and land in the flight simulators safely. Of course, all of them thought they could do it flawlessly. They were wrong! But they enjoyed a great experience.

Moving on to our next adventure was a trip to MDW Airport. The students had a one-on-one tour of the FBO (Fixed Base Operator) where all the celebrities fly into with their private jets. The students had a chance to speak with all employees that worked at the FBO to include the Manager, Rampers, Mechanics, etc. Aside from that tour, they had the chance to experience being in a live ATC tower where they had a multitude of questions for the air traffic control specialists working that day. We then proceeded to the Fire station and the City Operations. This was a good lesson on teamwork. The kids learned how all departments on the airport need to work together to make the airport functional. By now we are only half way through the week and we have had an amazing time with these kids and now we are going to take them to the Chicago Center



(ZAU). This is where all the enroute traffic goes after they transfer communication from the Approach Control (C90).

The kids learned how a pilot goes from controller to controller the second they leave their gate at their departure location, to the point they arrive at their destination gate. Most of the day was taken up there looking at all the different jobs located at one air traffic location. Now it was time to go back to Lewis University and work in teams to make a presentation on what they have learned. On graduation day, each team will have a PowerPoint slide on what they have learned about aviation during their week stay at Chicago A.C.E. Camp. The Thursday morning was the day all the kids hated... waking up at 4 a.m. I find it kind of funny as it reminded me when I was in the military. This is the day where we all took a trip in a coach bus to Oshkosh, Wisconsin for the EAA Air Venture Air show. This is the largest air show in the world, also known as the World's Greatest Aviation Celebration, where the elite enthusiasts of aviation arrive to do their business, to include John Travolta and Nicholas Cage.

Air traffic control specialists from across the country are selected for this air show and it literally becomes the world's busiest airport traffic control tower for the duration of the air show. The kids had the opportunity to talk to several speakers from different aircraft companies, aircraft owners/pilots, stunt pilots and even military pilots. After the air show, they received VIP treatment with a one-on-one tour of the airport traffic control tower and even had the chance to watch the air show from the VIP sky deck. Truly an experience they will never forget.

Another successful day accomplished and the next day is graduation and their final surprise. Friday morning we asked the students what they learned this week. They practiced their presentations with the counselors before graduation. The final question we had for them "Do you think you learned enough to actually fly a real aircraft? Take off, talk to air traffic, and then land it safely?" They all said yes. Our response was "Ok, let's see you do it" The expression on their face was priceless. They thought we were kidding. So we went outside, where we met with all the Certified Flight Instructors (CFI). We had a total of 10 Cessna 172. We assigned two students to each CFI. Each student had a chance to take off from Lewis University and land at another airport. At the other airport, they would switch students and then take off and fly back to Lewis University. This is by far the best thing that can influence a child. Give them a little bit of the adventure and they will pursue it. They got back and landed just in time for graduation.

It was another successful year at Chicago A.C.E. Camp. None of which would have been possible without our sponsors, OBAP, The Tuskegee Airman, Lewis University, Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), National Black Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees (NBCFAE), and National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees (NHCFAE). If anyone is interested to participate in next year's A.C.E. Camp, please email me around January 2013 at gldor@nhcfae.org Slots are limited and they go fast. It is indeed an amazing experience!

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A.C.E. CAMP

AVIATION CAREERS EDUCATION



Western-Pacific: ACE CAMP

By Susie Diaz, Western-Pacific RCD

This year, Western-Pacific NHCFAE joined together with National Black Coalition and the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals (OBAP) for our annual ACE Camp that took place in Compton Airport, July 8 through July 13. A total of 15 students from the ages of 12-17 participated. The kick off event started out with an introduction to parents, students and volunteers. Throughout the week, students learned about aviation, what type of careers the Aviation industry offers, volunteers' testimonials were presented to the students, and interactive group activities were conducted aimed at learning about ethics. They also had a field trip to the airport towers, museums, bomb squads and U.S. Coast Guard. The students also had an opportunity to go "behind the scenes" of a United Airlines, Boeing 747 and experience the accommodations inside the plane.

Every day, was a fascinating experience to all students and volunteers. On our last day Friday, while students waited patiently to fly, they were first asked a couple questions about their experience at Ace Camp and received their Certificate of Completion.

Elizabeth Medina and myself, volunteered throughout this ACE Camp journey. The opportunity given to discuss our experience at this Ace Camp with all 15 students was rewarding, even more to see all hands raised with questions while we were speaking to them. This valuable experience was mind blowing for Elizabeth and myself, just as well as for the students without a doubt. We are definitely looking forward to next year's event.



Taco and Salsa Tasting Contest

By Susie Diaz, Western-Pacific RCD

Western-Pacific celebrated Cinco de Mayo with Tacos and our Annual Salsa Tasting Contest Event.

What is a successful event? A successful event is when all the Cinco de Mayo Committee members come together with a plan and an agenda, with the outcome of putting it all in the works. Elsa Gonzalez, was the lead for this event. Each committee member had a different role on this event and proud to say it was a successful execution. Besides the taco and salsa tasting contest, we also added a fun photo corner area with different fun props. We had six participants that contributed to the Salsa Contest. Some of the participants returned this year to participate, and we were glad to have them participate again. The menu consisted of three types of meat for the taco tasting, which included chicken, carnitas and birria (a traditional Mexican dish made with beef and a red sauce). We also had agua fresca de tamarindo and plenty of different Hispanic desserts.

This event was coordinated by Western-Pacific members, where everyone contributed and donated what they could to make this event a success. The employees were asking if we were charging for food, but no! Everything was free of charge;

employees donated for future events and we welcomed the thought. By the end of the event, we collected about \$200. All committee members were dressed for the occasion and ready to show off the spirit.

In the morning, everyone met to decorate and set up outside in the front patio area of the Regional Office, here in Los Angeles, California. By 11:00 a.m. we were all set and ready to Go! Everyone enjoyed themselves in a nice warm weather while tasting our tacos, different kinds of salsas and desserts.

For all the work we did, I can truly call this event a successful one. We received positive feedback during the event and after. I thank all who contributed to this event, especially the members that truly got involved. A framed group picture, along with an appreciation certificate was presented to the group for their great work. This event was the result of all the great efforts, ideas, and team work. This only exemplifies team work and dedication. Great Job Team!



¡Viva Oklahoma!

By Bill Fernandez, Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center RCD

On Saturday, August 4, three Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center (MMAC) NHCFAE members participated in The Greater Oklahoma City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce ¡Viva Oklahoma! Expo and Job Fair.

This annual event combines an exhibition of local merchants who specialize in serving the Hispanic community, along with a job fair that targets potential Hispanic employees. All of this wrapped up with singers, dancers, clowns, mariachis, food and other entertainment.

John Espinosa, Tony Garcia, and Bill Fernandez staffed the FAA job booth and talked to potential applicants about

working for the FAA. The FAA Office of Civil Rights sponsors the FAA booth each year. This is a wonderful opportunity for the MMAC NHCFAE chapter to serve one of the primary goals of our organization by targeting Hispanic professionals for a career with the FAA.

The building was full of music and fun, and the time flew by. Several potential applicants came by to get information on joining us in the FAA.

¡Viva Oklahoma!



From left to right: Erin Ballard, Kimberly Castillo and Roberto Villa

Never Too Late To Brand What You're 'Worth'!

By Roberto Villa, Technical Center Chapter RCDD

On May 24th, the Technical Center Chapter hosted a lunch and learn workshop on “Branding Yourself: How to Create a Professional Portfolio” by Kimberly Castillo and Erin Ballard. The workshop was limited to 35 people and open to the FAA Technical Center community with priority seating to NHCFAE Chapter members. With a full house of mixed employees in the federal and private sectors, Kimberly and Erin challenged attendees to really consider documenting every professional achievement. While documenting all achievements doesn't exactly constitute what a professional portfolio should be, both Kimberly and Erin demonstrated techniques for a portfolio to be a customized collection that will reflect your skills and abilities in a professional format.

Attendees learned everything from how to get started, self-reflect on strengths, to strategies for organizing, and tools to develop your portfolio. Activities were performed and examples were presented in a way where both Federal and Contractor employees learned the benefit from creating their own professional portfolio that will put them a step ahead and give them that competitive advantage above others when competing for a job, a promotion, or even a reassignment.

The Technical Center Chapter appreciates both, Kimberly and Erin for accepting our invitation to present this workshop at the Technical Center! The feedback received was very positive and our doors are always open to you both!



A Night at Chelino's

By Bill Fernandez, Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center RCD

On Saturday July 21, members of the Mike Monroney Aeronautical NHCFAE Chapter got together for dinner at Chelino's Mexican Restaurant in the Bricktown area of Oklahoma City.

This was an opportunity for our members and their spouses to get together and have some fun and delicious Mexican food. We had the wonderful opportunity to host four special guests; we had two aviation professionals from Spain and two from Chile that joined us for dinner. All four of them were here in Oklahoma City attending specialized aviation training through the FAA Academy.

A special thanks to MMAC Chapter member Rosanna Sewell who arranged our special get together and we enjoyed our food in a nice separate area where we could all talk and enjoy the evening.

Next time you're in Oklahoma City, stop in at Chelino's Bricktown location (they have several in OKC). They have a wonderful balcony that overlooks our Oklahoma Riverwalk area in Bricktown. Once you are in Bricktown you can enjoy the variety of bars, night clubs, shops, or catch a game.



SkyOne Federal Credit Union Offers Its Members Affordable Car Financing

No matter what the make, model or color, consumers have one big thing in common when it comes to car buying—lower car payments. But securing the best deal for financing is a daunting task considering the myriad options from car dealerships to banks and credit unions, with varying terms, interest rates and promotional offers. Finding the lender that best fits your needs can feel like a quest for the Holy Grail.

Why Credit Unions are a Better Choice for Financing

Credit unions are not-for-profit cooperatives that invest in their members and care about their financial well-being. This means a credit union is less interested in moving a car off the lot than ensuring the consumer gets affordable and competitive financing. Credit unions are a better alternative to dealer financing because dealers tend to use financing as a tool to negotiate with buyers on the car's selling price. By getting their financing taken care of, the consumers have a better idea of what they can afford and have a leg up in their negotiations.

A long-time supporter of NHCFAE, SkyOne Federal Credit Union has been helping its members save on auto loans and everyday banking services for years. The credit union currently offers its members the same low fixed rates for new and used cars, for purchases and refinance, making auto loan financing straightforward and affordable for its members.

What's in a SkyOne Auto Loan

In addition to competitive rates, SkyOne's auto financing also offers terms up to 84 months, options to defer the first payment for as much as 90 days, and rate discounts for automatic payments and fuel efficient vehicles, giving its members many ways to save.

And financing is just the start. Dealers sometimes have huge margins on extras such as GAP (Guaranteed Auto Protection) insurance, which pays off your loan in the event your car is totaled before it's paid off. SkyOne members can have the same GAP coverage, but at \$250, it's a fraction of what dealers charge. SkyOne also offers Mechanical Breakdown Protection, commonly known as extended warranty, for a much more competitive price than dealerships.

Consumers who get SkyOne auto financing also have the option for loan protection. In case of the unexpected such as disability or even unemployment, their monthly loan payments will be paid, and their credit will be protected.

To Get an Affordable SkyOne Loan

As an NHCFAE member, you can enjoy the many benefits of SkyOne membership, including its low-cost, no fuss auto loans. Simply visit www.SkyOne.org or call 800.421.7111 to get a membership.

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This is a summary of the features for the 2012 Blue Cross and Blue Shield Service Benefit Plan. Before making a final decision, please read the plan's federal brochure (RI 71-005). All benefits are subject to the definitions, limitations and exclusions set forth in the 2012 federal brochure.

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