

FAAmilia

National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees



Volume 10 | July 2023



Registration ends soon!

NHCFAE Annual Training Conference Seattle: August 1-3, 2023



National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees "Con Orgullo en Nuestra Hispanidad"

NHCFAE
PO Box 23276
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 sponsorships and private donations.

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Vice-President, John Espinosa
Director of Administration, Laurie Ortiz
Director of Education, Hilda Banda
Director of Public Affairs, Susie Diaz
Director of Resources, Erik Salazar

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Bringing service to life

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Message from the NHCFAE President



~
National Hispanic Coalition of
Federal Aviation Employees

~
“Orgullosos de Nuestra
Herencia Hispana”

~
“Proud of our Hispanic
Heritage”



Querida FAamilia,

I hope this message finds you in good health. Since our last FAamilia magazine volume, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we have undertaken as members of the National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees (NHCFAE). Our collective dedication and unwavering commitment to our mission have positioned us as a leading force in promoting diversity, inclusion, and excellence within the FAA.

As you may have seen in my monthly updates, I am pleased to inform you that our recent facility visits across the country have been tremendously successful. These visits have enabled us to connect with our members on a personal level and provided valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities faced by our members. By engaging directly with our members in various locations, we have strengthened our network, fostering a sense of unity and collaboration that will drive our organization forward. We still have many facilities to visit, but we are committed to seeing you soon.

Moreover, our commitment to fostering the next generation of FAA professionals remains unwavering. Recognizing the importance of supporting STEM education and outreach, we have intensified our involvement in various events, programs, and initiatives that inspire young minds to pursue careers in the agency. By sharing our expertise and passion, we are sowing the seeds of success for the future. Your engagement in these STEM events and dedication to mentoring aspiring FAA professionals is commendable.

I am also delighted to highlight our collaboration with FAA leadership, as it has proven instrumental in advancing our shared goals. Through open and productive dialogue, we have established a strong partnership that allows us to advocate for the needs and interests of our members. By working closely with FAA leadership, we are driving positive change and ensuring that our voices are heard at the highest levels. Together, we are shaping a future where our members can thrive and excel within the agency.

Lastly, I want to express my deepest gratitude to every one of you for your continued support of the NHCFAE. Your involvement, dedication, and active participation are the pillars that sustain our coalition. Moving forward, we will remain steadfast in our commitment to engage with our members, listen to your concerns, and address the issues that matter most to you. We also recognize the importance of succession planning and grooming the next generation of leaders who will guide our coalition into the future.

In closing, I invite you to stay connected, share your ideas, and actively participate in our ongoing initiatives. Together, we can continue making a meaningful impact in the agency and, most importantly, our communities. Please visit our website www.NHCFAE.org and urge your colleagues to visit our website too. On our website and our social media platforms, you can see the work of our coalition, which is only possible thanks to your continued support.

Thank you for your unwavering support, and let us forge ahead, united and determined like the FAamilia that we are.

Muchas Gracias,

Oscar

Editor's Message

Hola FAAmilia,

Happy Summer!!!

Yay! Summer is finally here! I am so ready for some sun. Share your summer plans with your FAAmilia, we would love to hear from you. My summer plans will hopefully include lots of fun, and some relaxing time at the beach. Living close to the beach, I want to be able to go as many times as possible, as well as spending as much time as I can with my family.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at this year's Annual Training Conference in Seattle. The theme this year is: "Unidos to Reach New Heights". If you haven't registered yet, go ahead and check out the conference registration site: <https://nhcfae.org/event-page/>

You do not want to miss out on the boat cruise, decked out in your white attire. The theme for the banquet is "Hollywood Glam", so dress to impress! There are many more exciting things in store for you that Northwest Mountain and Western-Pacific Chapters have planned.

In Volume 10 of FAAmilia magazine, you will read about the successful events that chapters have been hosting. We have been busy working together to plan events all across the country. We have successfully recruited and retained members with the help of our FAAmilia. Also, you will read the profiles of the women that participated in Women's History Month, as well as some of the Cinco de Mayo events and outreach events that have kept us busy. Also, don't forget about the virtual events that several chapters are still hosting to make it easier to bring us together.

You will also get to know and read about the candidates for this year's national offices: President, Director of Administration and Director of Public Affairs. All of the candidates will begin office on October 1, 2023. The positions are for two years. I encourage everyone to get involved and get to know each of the positions for the future elections, as well!

Remember to stay connected with us. Join us on our social media pages: Instagram (@nhcfaeonig) and Facebook (@nhcfae).

With this said, I will close out my message with reminding everyone that your FAAmilia is here for you! SMILE, BREATHE, RELAX & RESET!

And happy belated Pride Month... Love is Love!

Abrazos,

Susie Diaz

National Director of Public Affairs



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SCAN ME





2023 Annual Training Conference

On behalf of the Regional Chapter Directors, Karla Valdez, from Northwest Mountain, and Nat Perez, from Western Pacific, we have the pleasure of inviting you to join us for the 43rd Annual NHCFAE Training Conference in Seattle, WA from August 1st – 3rd, 2023. This year's theme is "Unidos to Reach New Heights!" and will be held in the beautiful Renaissance Hotel in downtown Seattle.

The conference will consist of three days of incredible training sessions and special events that you will not want to miss! Please make sure to check out our agenda for more details on the three days packed with various interactive training sessions. Along with education and training, we also have various opportunities to network and strengthen our membership bonds.

On the first evening, we will have a presidential reception on the top floor of the hotel with a spectacular view of downtown Seattle. On the second evening, come join us for an unforgettable evening cruise (white attire encouraged), to relax and unwind as you take in stunning views of the city skyline and surrounding mountains. We'll enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres, refreshing beverages and music to keep you entertained throughout the journey. On the final evening, we will celebrate our membership at the "Hollywood Glam" themed banquet. Dress to impress!

Learn, have fun, network, make friends and enjoy the experience!

Register Today! <https://nhcfae.org/annual-conference/>

You do not want to miss our 43rd Annual Training Conference!

Nos Vemos Pronto!

Karla Valdez, Northwest Mountain RCD, and Nat Perez, Western-Pacific RCD



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2023 NHCFAE National Candidates



NHCFAE National President Candidate

It has been an extraordinary year and a half, and I can tell you that serving as president of our NHCFAE has truly been the highlight of my professional career. During my years as a member, a local board member, and an executive board member, I have come to appreciate the sacrifices and challenges all leaders at every level of our organization had to meet head-on to fulfill the mission we so deeply care about.

We have certainly come a long way, and when I first asked for your support to lead our coalition as president, several areas needed immediate attention. Our membership recruitment and retention was one of those areas that needed our immediate attention. I'm happy to let you know that over the last year and a half, we are now trending up when it comes to our membership numbers and our FAAmilia continues to grow daily thanks to the work of our team around the country. This required a lot of work by everyone, and as you can see in my updates, we remain committed to visiting with members around the country and engaging with them, listening to them, and motivating them to get involved in the coalition. If permitted by you to serve another term, I pledge to continue this commitment and allow our coalition to continue to grow.

On the communications front, we needed to get the word out about the good work of our NHCFAE, hence increasing our social media presence. As you already know, we are now on almost every social media platform, to reach as many individuals as possible, and keep everyone informed about our organization. I will also continue to keep you informed about the work of our coalition through my monthly updates. We have also redesigned our website, making its navigation easier, with conference information and registration as streamlined as possible for our upcoming conference in Seattle on August 1-3, 2023, and for future conferences to come. If you have not had a chance to see it, please visit our site at www.nhcfae.org.

Through collaboration, we continue to strengthen and grow our alliances with other Employee Associations and organizations with like-minded goals. With the agency, we continue to have a seat at the table when it comes to speaking and collaborating with FAA leadership, and will remain focused on having an increased influence on policies that may have an impact on our communities. On the outreach front, we have increased participation and collaboration with schools, colleges, and universities in our communities, so that students from all ethnic backgrounds are made aware of the opportunities available in the FAA. This partnership continues to grow as the FAA has committed to be a gold sponsor at the next HACU (Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities) Conference in Chicago later this year.

I have to admit that there are some shortfalls on my part, which were not completed during this first term. One of those is the NHCFAE Academy. This academy's purpose is to prepare the next generation of NHCFAE leaders through succession planning. Although we have done some things to cover that, which include updating our Regional Director's SOP, updating our member guide, having meetings with our Regional Directors to discuss challenges and share ideas to move forward, the Academy is still something that I would like to see through, because I believe it will place our organization on the right course for its sustainability for decades to come.

With your support for a second term, we will be busy, but there are two areas that have already begun to take shape that require our continued due diligence to ensure that it is accomplished. One, we will officially get a Hispanic Serving Institution initiative signed by FAA leadership to solidify the collaboration between the agency and HSIs. The future of the FAA is in those classrooms right now, and we will work to reach those students and enhance their awareness of FAA opportunities. You may have seen that we have an official HBCU initiative, and we applaud that initiative wholeheartedly, but it will be my priority, and the priority of our team, to get an HSI initiative signed. Next, we have begun the work to retain the services of a legal firm to provide our members with counsel when it comes to issues at the workplace related to EEO. Unfortunately, we are seeing an increase of EEO filings, and I feel that we need to provide our members the ability to have professional counseling that can help them navigate through the process. An EEO committee has been created, and we are hopeful that this member benefit will be available as soon as possible.

Finally, I want you to know that as president, my team and I will continue to work tirelessly on your behalf and continue this great momentum we have built. I'm committed to continue leading our team and being your advocate, so your voices are heard. I humbly ask for your support, and your help, so the work of our coalition can carry on and continue to make you proud to be part of our wonderful NHCFAE FAAmilia.

Muchísimas gracias!

Oscar A. Torres

2023 NHCFAE National Candidates

NHCFAE National Director of Public Affairs Candidate

My name is Susie Diaz. I respectfully announce my candidacy for national Director of Public Affairs (DOPA) for the NHCFAE. I am currently serving as the appointed DOPA.

It has been a pleasure to serve you as DOPA for several years now, both elected and appointed. It would be a great honor to continue serving you.

For those that do not know about me, my career with the FAA began almost 25 years ago. I reside in Los Angeles, California. My coworkers have taught me to keep reaching for success in my career. I work for ATO-Engineering Services as a Drafting Coordinator. I also have served as the NHCFAE Regional Chapter Director for Western-Pacific Chapter. I understand the importance of communication as a means of disseminating information and giving a voice to everyone. That is why when I was RCD, I began a quarterly newsletter for our region, “Nuestra Voz.” This newsletter gave our regional members a voice, a forum to share their experiences, to voice their concerns, celebrate their successes and get to know one another. I have been an active NHCFAE member since 2008, and as a member, I have had the opportunity to meet wonderful professionals from other Latin American countries, including some that I directly identify with, Mexican-Americans. Growing up in Los Angeles, you are immediately introduced to clashes of cultures, and you admire all of the diversity. I see this in the coalition. This diversity found within the NHCFAE has given me a sense of home away from home.



During my journey as DOPA, since 2015, I have learned and enjoyed so much. I want to continue this journey with you! I know effectively communicating with all members is a very important facet to uphold. I will also continue exchanging ideas with all members, and continually making revisions to our website (www.nhcfae.org). As DOPA, I will continue to help us publish our successful magazine, “FAAmilia”. In addition, staying active on our social media platforms to make sure all members are getting information on what is going on with our FAAmilia is vital.

The position of the NHCFAE DOPA will allow me to continue giving a voice, and a forum, to our members and the organization, which is a top priority for me. As members, I know we look forward to and enjoy the articles found in “FAAmilia,” as one of the many avenues our members serve as storytellers. Therefore, as your DOPA, I hope to continue expanding our members and organization’s voice.

I will continue to promote transparency through strong and consistent communication, corporate sponsors, and the FAA, as well as promoting the organization as a strong and viable voice to our members, and identifying partnerships to promote collaboration through consistent and effective messages.

I look forward to your support to help me continue my journey as your National Director of Public Affairs, to strengthen the voice of the NHCFAE and its members.

Abrazos,

Susie Diaz

2023 NHCFAE National Candidates

NHCFAE National Director of Administration Candidate



Hi, my name is Nāleé Diane Romero-Cascante, and I am pleased to submit my candidacy for National Director of Administration. I am currently serving on a detail with Flight Standards (FS) Correspondence Service Branch, National Transportation and Safety Board (NTSB) and FAA Safety Recommendations Unit (AFB-130), as a FS Safety Recommendations Analyst. I am utilizing my Quality Control Program Specialist (QCPS) background to increase transparency, accountability, and efficiencies by facilitating collaborative efforts between FS and the Office of Accident Investigation and Prevention, NTSB and FAA Safety Recommendations Branch (AVP-420).

My main job, when I am not on detail, is with AVP-420, as a Management and Program Analyst. I coordinate with all FAA LOBs, NTSB, and several foreign Civil Aviation Authorities to ensuring that the FAA's responses reflect current agency policy in increasing safety. I joined the FAA in July 2014. I moved around the country with the FAA, first stationed at ZLA-Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC), Los Angeles, CA as the Air Traffic Manager secretary, then acting Quality Control Specialist, then on to ZTL-ARTCC, Hampton, Georgia as a QCPS.

I served as the Vice-President of Puente Student Association at Long Beach Community College, and subsequently received my Associates from Los Angeles Community College, then transferred to California State University Los Angeles where I received a Bachelor of Arts in History and Single Subject Teaching Credential (High School History/Economics teacher). Like many Hispanic families, I am the first Romero-Cascante to attend and complete a college degree. Prior to my employment with the FAA, I was the Commander's secretary for the Department of Defense, United States Air Force, stationed at Fairchild AFB.

I feel that it is important to be willing to share my story to help and motivate others in their endeavors. I describe myself as always looking back to remember where I came from, and being grateful for where I am now. I would also like to thank Laurie Ortiz for her years of volunteerism to the NHCFAE as the outgoing National Director of Administration.

I would love to be welcomed as part of the national Executive Board as your new Director of Administration.

Thank you,

Nāleé Diane Romero-Cascante



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CINCO DE MAYO

Aeronautical Center Chapter Celebrates Cinco de Mayo

John Espinosa, National Vice President

The MMAC Chapter celebrated Cinco de Mayo on May 4, 2023, by hosting an event at Blue Sky Cafe in the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center (MMAC). The event was well attended by employees and members. The MMAC Chapter set up a table and provided variety of fresh baked Mexican pan dulce. Michelle Coppedge and Kevin O'Connor, MMAC Director and Deputy Director, were in attendance and stopped by our booth to say hello and show their support. We appreciate our partnership with the MMAC leadership team and look forward to our collaboration with local Hispanic high schools and Hispanic Serving Institutions.

Blue Sky Cafe outdid their selves by providing a menu of classic Mexican dishes. They served up a menu including tamales, carne asada, pollo asado, carnitas, Mexican rice and borracho beans. We set up a table with giveaways and provided membership information to over a dozen interested employees. We even signed up a new member. Help us welcome Tony Wilson to the FAamilia! Thanks to everyone that came out and supported the celebration.

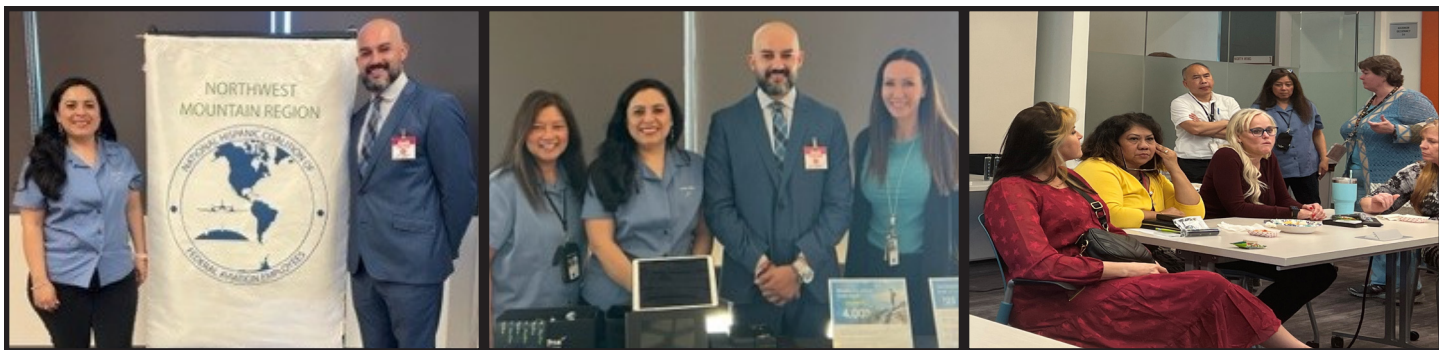


Northwest Mountain Chapter Celebrates Cinco de Mayo

Karla Valdez, Northwest Mountain Regional Chapter Director

Northwest Mountain Chapter hosted an event to celebrate Cinco de Mayo. Unfortunately, since COVID, we've had some challenges hosting events at the building with employees just coming to the building one day a week, but with things getting back to almost fully normal, and having a mandatory in person day for the Air Traffic Organization, we were able to have enough employees to gather and celebrate! This event took place on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at the Northwest Mountain Regional Office. We served chips and salsa, pan dulce, and Mexican candies for our guests. In addition, we invited our sponsor from SkyOne Credit Union, Franco Ayala, who graciously accepted our invitation and did a hybrid presentation for us. Western Pacific and Northwest Mountain joined together to successfully learn about what Skyone has to offer. We had about 20 people in person and another 8 online. SkyOne also had the opportunity to set up an information booth all day at the building and create relationships with the employees. People were very pleased with the event, and some expressed how much they miss these types of events. We hope to bring back the famous salsa contest where employees compete to make their delicious salsa and people vote for their favorite one, and more events soon.

At the end of the day, we gathered for a social event at the Agave Cocina & Cantina for some delicious food and enjoyable time. We look forward to more in-person events like this.



CINCO DE MAYO

Southern Chapter Celebrates Cinco de Mayo

Freidy Lazala, Southern Regional Chapter Director

On May 5, 2023, several members from Southern chapter gathered at Havana 1957 to celebrate Cinco de Mayo. It was great to see everyone. Some of us are usually on travel and/or just had a hard time making it to any of the events. I have been busy working, traveling and spending time with family, but I want to let all Southern members know that as your RCD, I am here for you. If there are any events or ideas you have in mind, please feel free to reach out to me. I promise we can make it happen.



Western-Pacific Chapter: Fiesta with Nachos

Susie Diaz, National Director of Public Affairs

May the Fourth be with you! We commemorated Cinco de Mayo on the 4th of May at our El Segundo Regional Office. The lobby was decorated with Mexican candies and NHCFAE goodies. We broadcasted our message inviting all employees to come down for our festivities and nachos... who doesn't love NACHOS?! Tuesdays are popular days to come in the office, so we picked that day to host our event. There were also two different trainings going on, so we got lucky with more employees in the building. While employees came over to enjoy their nachos, I was introducing myself and our organization. It was a great opportunity for us to get to know each other better, because there are several new employees and many of us have lost touch while working hybrid schedules. That afternoon, we hosted a social hour after work just a few blocks away from the office at Mercado restaurant. We also welcomed a new member to our FAAmilia, Andres Hernandez!

I know it sounds cliché, but it is always great to see people in person, even working in the hybrid environment. I enjoy these types of events in the office because I see our employees come together to say "hi" and visit with each other. You can tell in their faces that they were missed. I look forward to having many more events in the office.



NATCA Proudly Supports the NHCFAE Annual Training Conference in Seattle Washington

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NHCFAE OUTREACH



Western-Pacific Visits SoCal TRACON

Nat Perez, Western-Pacific Regional Chapter Director

It had been a long time in the making, and a well overdue visit to the San Diego area for the Western-Pacific chapter. Our very own Deputy Regional Director, Tony Garcia, was able to facilitate and prepare for our visit. Our national president, Oscar Torres, Capital RCD, Karen Perez, as well as members from the Western-Pacific chapter joined us, including Susie Diaz, from the regional office in El Segundo and Jonathan Eagle, from Van Nuys tower. We were able to tour the facility and present our organization to the employees working that day. We caught up with current members, and even welcomed a couple new members: Jason Johnson, from SoCal TRACON, and Tony Garcia, from Los Angeles tower. By visiting facilities, we are able to engage our current members, recruit new members, and promote our mission and the great initiatives we have going on nationwide. It was a great visit, and we will be sure to head back to the San Diego area soon! A special thanks to our corporate sponsor, SkyOne Credit Union, for joining us and informing our members of the great benefits they have exclusively for the NHCFAE.



NHCFAE OUTREACH



Outreach at Fresno City College

Nat Perez, Western-Pacific Regional Chapter Director

Western-Pacific continues to build relationships and create outreach initiatives to help our community. In our latest initiative, we met with the Latino Faculty and Staff Association from Fresno City College in Fresno, CA, and promised support in future endeavors to include career fair visits, STEM talks, vocational education, career coaching, resume writing, subject matter expert speaking events and overall exposure to the aviation industry.



Youth Tour at OAK ARTCC

Deborah Soles, Western-Pacific Member

On Friday, March 31, Caesar Chavez Day, a total of 19 visitors took a tour of the Oakland Air Route Traffic Control Center (ZOAARTCC). Of these visitors, 16 were youths aged 9 to 16, plus 3 adult chaperones. 6 of the youth were children of the ZOA staff, including one of whom had flown in from Dulles International Airport (IAD) to San Francisco (SFO) for spring break. We were fortunate to have 3 administrative staff personnel and 7 controllers participate in the event. An ATC 101 presentation was briefed, followed by tours throughout the facility, including the operational floor for both Oceanic & Domestic Operations, Test & Training Lab, and Airspace and Procedures. The Falcon tool was used to show the IAD-SFO flight (taken by one of the students), its entry into ZOA airspace, including voice, as it made its way to SFO.

The students were provided snacks, water, masks, a delicious lunch they really enjoyed and items provided by NHCFAE & STEM AVSED (pamphlets, airplane pens, ready-to-build cardboard planes, pencils, & lanyards). Some students took the recently launched Airport Design Challenge posters to display at their schools.

Overall, it was a successful event, enjoyed by the youth, adults & ZOA staff. There are many controllers asking when we'll do it again, as they really enjoyed interacting with the students and want to be involved next time.



NHCFAE OUTREACH



STEM with Drones at the Southern Region

Freidy Lazala, Southern Regional Chapter Director

The NHCFAE is committed to supporting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education and careers. On February 17, 2023, Southern Region Chapter Director, Freidy Lazala, was present along with NHCFAE president, Oscar Torres, at the launch of the Drone Academy Program at Pine Crest Academy in Space Coast, FL.

Our NHCFAE Southern region proudly sponsors this program, led by Dr. Suzanne Banas. Dr. Banas has dedicated her entire professional career to education, and she is focusing on aviation topics and collaborating with schools in Florida. The first drone class was comprised of 10 young ladies eager to learn about the principles of flight, UAS rules, regulations and safety. They performed various exercises with the drones, ranging from maneuvering to taking photos utilizing the drones.

On May 5, at Somerset College Prep South in Miami, Freidy Lazala and Antonio Deleon, the new Miami Area Director, hosted a STEM/drone class that Dr. Banas assisted with too. This STEM class was a mix of female and male students.

The NHCFAE recognizes the importance of STEM education in preparing students for high-demand careers in the aviation industry and other fields. We will continue to support initiatives around the country like this one to promote STEM education, such as organizing educational events and partnerships with schools, colleges, and other organizations.

Our coalition works diligently to bring awareness to students regarding STEM careers and provides resources and mentorship opportunities to help them achieve their goals. Through these efforts, our NHCFAE aims to increase diversity and representation in the STEM fields, and contribute to a more inclusive and innovative workforce in the STEM related industry.

Southern region is proud to be involved with all the STEM education programs for our young students. We love all the excited facial expressions and knowing they have been motivated to continue with their future education. We look forward to continue spreading the word in STEM/drones, especially with the hope that one of them can come back and say it was because of us that they have a successful career.



Middle School Career Fair

Jonathan Eagle, Western-Pacific Member

I had the opportunity to participate in the Vista Middle School career fair. Many students were able to pass through our booths and ask questions about our careers. I even had an opportunity to participate in a panel where questions were asked by a moderator. Special thanks to Morgan Hatch for inviting me to participate in this educational opportunity. Looking forward to participating in many more school career fairs.



NHCFAE OUTREACH



Western-Pacific Reignites Phoenix

Nat Perez, Western-Pacific Regional Chapter Director

It had been a very long and overdue visit for the Western-Pacific chapter to meet with our current members, and recruit new members, in the state of Arizona. Thankfully, with the new momentum that is flowing rampant through the coalition, we were able to realize this vital trip. This venture was possible through the collaboration between Western-Pacific chapter leadership and NHCFAE executive leadership. We were fortunate enough to have our national president, Oscar Torres, and national membership co-chair, Jonathan Eagle, join us. These visits were coordinated by Jonathan Eagle with the facilitation of the NATCA network and the help of Facility Representative, Bradon Esquer, from Phoenix TRACON, and Jason Chiquete, from Falcon tower.

During our facility visits, we were able to engage with current members and speak about the mission of the coalition, and what current and future initiatives we are working on. Our organizational leadership was able to meet and introduce the coalition to FAA management and NATCA leadership at both sites. Furthermore, these visits created exposure and awareness for the coalition and the many FAA employees that did not even know of its existence, or know the processes and procedures allotted to Employee Association members.

Through these visits, we are able to engage first-hand with our members and listen to their needs and contributions to the organization. We have members that are taking on their own initiatives and speaking to schools; and through these visits will now receive the full support of the coalition logistically to continue their community outreach efforts that fall directly in line with our mission.

Meeting with the members in person is key! We are a coalition, and the identity of this organization is created by its membership that is banded together by our unique cultural diversity. Having a face-to-face conversation and meeting new members allows us to answer questions, understand expectations, and discover the hidden talents that our new members possess. Hearing each member's individual success story also helps us as leadership to be reinvigorated and reenergized for our mission.

In closing, our visit was a success as we were able to meet with the members in the workplace and had an offsite networking event where members spoke candidly about their needs from the coalition. I am happy to report that the visit produced 5 NEW MEMBERS!! Keep an eye out and say hello to those new members in our new member spotlight in this magazine!!!



Service after Serving... Southwest Border Mission

Raul Garza Jr., Southwest Chapter Member

I don't know why...but almost every time a volunteer opportunity comes up, I answer the call. That's why when the Department of Homeland Security asked for volunteers to assist Border Patrol (BP) with the asylum seekers' surge at the southwest border... guess whose hand went straight up?

Initially, it was a 45-day detail in Eagle Pass, TX, but I ended extending multiple times for a total of five months of what was very rewarding work. This was also the first time I was given an opportunity to use my bilingual skills in an official capacity as a federal employee.

cont...

NHCFAE OUTREACH



At the peak of the surge during the summer, our facility processed over 3,000 migrants per day. Most of the migrants were from Cuba, Venezuela, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. The BP agents handled most of the administrative work, while the Volunteer Force's main mission was to assist BP with the humanitarian needs of the detainees.

We provided three meals per day. In addition, we ensured the many water tables had water bottles and stocked other tables with snacks and apples. The Volunteer Force also stocked multiple baby-changing stations with diapers, wipes, baby formula, and baby food. We also



managed a warehouse that provided the supplies needed by the detainees such as clothing, shoes/sandals, feminine products, mylar blankets, and administrative items for the BP agents, such as paper, printer ink cartridges, DNA testing kits, and other office supplies.

The volunteers worked 10-hour days, six days per week in a gigantic white tent-like building that was 100% self-sustaining. I mentioned the rewarding work... I say that it was rewarding because no matter what your personal beliefs are concerning illegal migrants... they are human beings first, with real needs just like the rest of us.

I would definitely volunteer for another mission like this if the opportunity came up again.



“Read Across America” Career Day

Susie Diaz, National Director of Public Affairs

On March 2, I participated in career day “Read Across America” at my daughter’s elementary school. It is always an awesome feeling when I get to talk about what I do and where I work to small children. The facial expressions I get are the best part of doing this. The young children get excited and always have great questions. I partnered with a pilot and his wife, who is a flight attendant for Alaska Airlines. I read the book “I Am Amalia Earhart” and talked about where I work. I passed out small glider airplanes to all the children. I believe that talking to young children about aviation is the perfect age where you motivate them to keep studying and always asking questions for them to reach high in their careers. Later in life, when they remember you and tell you that you inspired them, that is the “ahhh” moment where you know you are doing something inspirational and can be proud.





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3rd Quarter Meetings in Houston

Oscar Torres, National President

The Executive Board, and part of the Executive Committee, traveled to Houston May 20-21, 2023 for our 3rd quarter meeting.

Usually, these meetings are only attended by the Executive Board, but to continue with our commitment to succession planning and developing the next leaders of our NHCFAE, we have started to invite Chapter Directors to join us in these meetings, to enhance their experience as current and future leaders of our coalition.

We held our meetings at the Houston ARTCC, which helps offset some of the costs, and also allows us to meet with local managers and FAA colleagues.

Over the course of the two days, we had a packed agenda that covered items including constitution and bylaws amendments that will be discussed during the membership meeting at the conference. These items include the creation of a student membership category in the NHCFAE so that our engagement with students continues to grow, the consolidation of two chapters into bigger regions, and requirements for executive board member candidacy.

The team also worked on the conference agenda, which we are excited for you to attend in Seattle from August 1-3, 2023. Registrations are filling up fast, so please visit our conference event page at www.nhcfae.org. There you will also be able to book your hotel reservations.

I would like to give a special thank you to our Director of Education, Hilda Banda, and Houston chapter members, William Vallejos and Misael Goicuria, who were gracious to give us an amazing tour of the Houston ARTCC. A lot of work is being done behind the scenes so that a facility, like Houston Center, can operate smoothly and efficiently. We were really in awe about all the systems that have to operate at 100% in order for that to happen. We are proud that members of our NHCFAE FAamilia at the Houston ARTCC play an instrumental role in ensuring the efficient and safe operation of all those systems.

Chapter Events

Southwest on the Move!

Hilda Banda, National Director of Education

On March 18, the Houston chapter held a meet and greet at Blue Water Seafood, where we were able to “compartir como faamilia” and discuss upcoming plans for our chapter. One member brought a guest, Kathie Turner, who provided valuable information on outreach to the community and engagement. We are working diligently on recruiting and planning future events to help bring aviation events to schools. The food was great, the people were amazing, and most of all the love was there. Houston chapter looks forward to the conference and other engagements, where we can learn more about one another and help boost each other’s careers.



On April 27, we had the pleasure of meeting with some of our members in El Paso and touring the tower. We were greeted by Tech Ops and Air Traffic management. It was such a wonderful experience to be able to meet them. They immediately made us feel like FAamilia. Our members, and their families, also joined us at the Southwest University Park Stadium for a baseball game of the one and only, El Paso Chihuahuas. Our SW RCD, Lydia, had the honor of throwing the second pitch of the game. Some of our members at El Paso tower are already participating in various outreach events and are looking forward to be more active within the coalition. Three new members joined our FAamilia. Please help me welcome Cesar Cordero, Baltazar Perez and Aaron Rivera.



The Southwest facility visits continued, as our next stop was Albuquerque tower. We had the opportunity to meet one of our longtime members. We also had two AT controllers join our FAamilia. Our third stop was at the Albuquerque ARTCC, where our long-time member, Marcos Chavira, greeted us and gave us a tour of the facility. We were greeted by management, Tech Ops and Air Traffic, and we had the opportunity to share information about our coalition. We had numerous people interested in all the upcoming projects and the outreach efforts. The day ended with dinner at the Sawmill. Please help me welcome our two new members from ABQ tower, Ernesto Callejas and Kyle Gibson.



On Cinco de Mayo, we made our 3rd facility visit to ZFW ARTCC in Fort Worth. We were joined by our national president, Oscar Torres, for this visit. We were greeted by the ZFW ARTCC’s ATM, David Gonzales, who is a member of our FAamilia and NHCFAE Elections Chair. We had the opportunity to chat with current members, and many that were interested in joining our FAamilia, while enjoying some pan dulce. The day ended with a delicious dinner with current, retired and returning members. We had a great time talking about past and future outreach events. Our members are passionate about STEM, and have started planning a camp for the near future.

Thanks to all of our Southwest team for joining us!

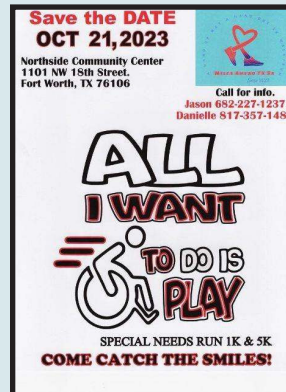


Chapter Events

Thank You from Southwest

Lydia Gomez-Martinez, Southwest Regional Chapter Director

A big thank you to our Southwest members: Hilda Banda, Patricia Navarro, Rose Daily, Misty Pena and our president, Oscar Torres, for purchasing Cinco De Mayo t-shirts from our fundraiser partner “All I Want To Do Is Play.” We partnered with them to help raise money for their 5K in October. This will benefit the special needs in our community. By purchasing a t-shirt, it also allowed for each of the kids to get a free shirt and a small percent came back to our chapter. If anyone would like to participate in the 5K, I have attached their flyer with all the information below. If you have any questions, please let me know at (lgmartinez4@yahoo.com).



Lunch and Learns with Livingston Financial

Karen Perez, Capital Regional Chapter Director

During the month of April, Capital Chapter hosted two lunch and learns, *Social Security Benefits* and *Planning for Long-Term Care*.

Both sessions were presented by Michael Livingston from Livingston Financial Group, our long-term sponsors and friends of the Hispanic Coalition.

The *Social Security Benefits* lunch and learn had a great turnout of 31 attendees, leading to lots of questions on the highly informative topic. Here, we learned about our full retirement age and how our benefits are determined, as well as how when we retire affects them, in addition to strategies to maximize these benefits.

For the *Planning for Long-Term Care* session, we had a turnout of 15 attendees. We learned about the potential costs and methods to pay for long-term care as those we care about (including ourselves) get older in age, and the benefits of having long-term care insurance.

If you missed any of these lunch and learns, do not stress! Your NHCFAE local chapters are always looking for ways to add value to our members. Please be on the lookout for repeat topics for lunch and learns from Livingston, but if you'd like any of these sooner, please reach out to your local RCD to request one!

These sessions are not only beneficial and full of information, but they come from great supporters of the coalition. They are an excellent resource to have at our side for our members, so please take advantage of the wealth of knowledge that they have. We are truly grateful for our partnership with Livingston Financial group and the value they bring to our member's lives.

If you'd like to reach out to Michael Livingston, you may do so at: michael@livingstonfinancialgroup.com.

Chapter Events

Relationship Debates Virtual Happy Hour

Karen Perez, Capital Regional Chapter Director

Capital chapter, along with Western-Pacific chapter (and everywhere in between), hosted another *East Coast Meets West Coast* Virtual Happy Hour, inviting all of our members nationwide to join.

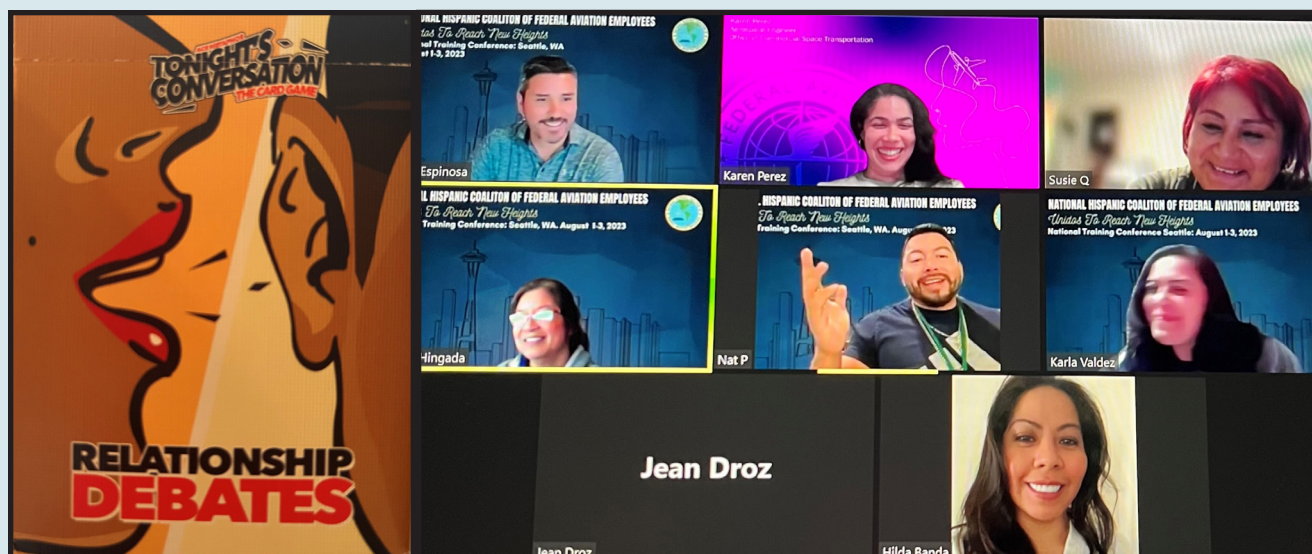
This virtual happy hour consisted of pulling questions from the card game, *Tonight's Conversations – Relationship Debates*. With questions such as:

- Your significant other quits their job because they want to become a rapper. The mixtape is dropping next week, but so are the bills. Would you support them?
- After dating your significant other for a year, you find out they have a child they never told you about. What happens next?
- If a man proposes to his girlfriend and she declines, is the relationship over?
- You've been in a monogamous relationship for a while, and now your significant other wants to have an open relationship. Would you consider it?

Your fellow members in attendance debated some of these taboo relationship topics and cultural norms, expressed strong opinions, and shared multiple laughs. This much needed event allowed members to not only relax a bit from our day-to-day work and coalition duties, but get to know each other on a deeper level, build camaraderie, and deepen our FAAmilia bond, which ultimately helps us work together to pursue the NHCFAE mission on the daily.

Relationships are one of the biggest things that drive us as human beings, connect us to one another, and allow us to feel loved and fulfilled in the fullest expression of ourselves. It is one of the things that drive the NHCFAE!

We hope you can join us at our next *East Coast Meets West Coast* Virtual Happy Hour, as we will definitely have a part two from a different card game. Stay tuned!





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Latinas in Aviation Panel Discussion

Karen Perez, Capital Regional Chapter Director

Three Capital Chapter members came together on April 19, 2023 for a Latinas in Aviation Panel Discussion. The event was coordinated by Kevin Cabrera, the Museum Director for the College Park Aviation Museum, located adjacent to the world's oldest continuously operating airport. The airport has a rich history and was founded in 1909 by aviation pioneers, the Wright Brothers.

The panelists in attendance, all recently published in the second edition of the *Latinas in Aviation* book, were Keanne Vallejo (ATC Contingency Operations), Frankie Velazquez- Mercado (Weather/Flight Service, Student Pilot), and Karen Perez (Office of Commercial Space). After starting off their discussion with their background introductions, the panelists talked about how their interest in aviation was sparked, as well as what career highlights they've experienced so far. The ladies also spoke about the specific challenges they've faced in the aviation industry as a result of being a woman and a Latina, including breaking through cultural roadblocks that are embedded in the Hispanic heritage.

The panel discussion incorporated a Q&A segment, where the audience was able to interact with the panelists and dive deeper into each of their individual stories. The audience was presented with a free copy of the second edition of the *Latinas in Aviation* book, and the last 15 minutes of the session was designated for book signing.

This turned out to be an excellent outreach event, and one that was very fulfilling at that. We met one particular high school Latina who had recently migrated to the United States from Nicaragua, and it was satisfying to see the exposure she was receiving to the different career options that she has available in the aviation industry. We also met a mother who was seeking advice on how to best guide her high school son on choosing the career that's best for him, especially with him already having an interest in engineering.

Overall, the Latinas in Aviation Panel Discussion was an incredibly empowering session, allowing both the FAA and the NHCFAE Capital Chapter to spread awareness that there are, indeed, people that look like us making strides in the aerospace sector. We look forward to continuing not only the agency's, but the Coalition's STEM outreach efforts, in order to build a more diverse workforce of the future.



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Women's HISTORY MONTH

MARCH 2023




It is always an honor to celebrate Women's History Month. This year, we focused on the female leaders that represent our organization.

During the month of March, we hosted a virtual "Charla", moderated by John Espinosa, NHCFAE Vice President, and Migdalia Gonzalez, Hispanic Engagement Program Manager.

We also hosted a virtual paint night, where we painted a female with a crown. It was a fun night where we all got to see each other's creativity. Each of us were able to showcase our unique creative sides!


To wrap up the month, Ruth Hurtado, NHCFAE Outreach Chair, hosted a virtual character assessment to help everyone find out what their top characteristics are, which was both interesting and fun!

Women's History Month



Hilda Banda
National Director of Education

FAA Title: Operation Support Specialist for the Houston District
Hobbies: My new hobby is collecting information and building my family tree.
Favorite Quote: The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams ... -ER



Women's History Month



Karen Perez
Capital Regional Chapter Director

FAA Title: Aerospace Engineer
Hobbies: I sew for fun - I reupholstered my couch during the pandemic. Ask me for pictures!
Favorite Quote: "Your attitude, not your aptitude, will determine your altitude."
-Zig Ziglar



Women's History Month



Karla Valdez
NORTHWEST MOUNTAIN REGIONAL CHAPTER DIRECTOR

FAA Title: Management & Program Analyst, Located in Seattle, WA
Hobbies: I love doing jigsaw puzzles for fun. Lately, I've been into diamond painting which is a combination of cross-stitch and paint-by-numbers. You use an applicator to apply hundreds of sparkling rhinestones, one by one, on an adhesive color-coded canvas painting.
Favorite Quote: "People think of Latina women as being fiery and fierce, which is usually true. But I think the quality that so many Latinas possess is strength."
-Zoe Saldana



Women's History Month



Laurie Ortiz,
National Director of Administration

FAA Title: Administrative Officer, in Kansas City, Missouri
Hobbies: Volunteering at local animal shelters. Also, I enjoy reading murder mystery books.
Favorite Quote: "Never allow a person to tell you no who doesn't have the power to say yes."
By: Eleanor Roosevelt



Women's History Month




Lydia Gomez-Martinez
Southwest RCD

FAA Title: Management Program Analyst, Procurement/Purchase Card in FortWorth, TX
Hobbies: Collecting Jewelry, Crocheting when I have the time and Cooking.
Favorite Quote: "I wish I knew then what I know now"
By: Rebecca Wells




Women's History Month



Susie Diaz,
Director of Public Affairs

FAA Title: ATO-Drafting Coordinator, located in El Segundo, CA
Hobbies: Arts & Crafts, Cooking and Exercising
Favorite Quote: Early is on time, on time is late, and late is unacceptable.
-unknown





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National Hispanic Coalition members took part in the Secretary's 55th Annual Awards ceremony as recipients of team awards in the categories of Creative and Innovation & Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Kristina Harris, a member of the *Office of Communications Zero Tolerance Team*, was recognized for helping to decrease the rate of airline passenger incidents by more than 60 percent in 2021. The team was awarded the **Creative and Innovation Team Award**. The award recognizes the work of teams or individuals who developed and deployed an innovative change that helped achieve or improve the mission of the organization.

NHCFAE members, **Sonia Crus and Dolores Spriggs**, members of the *Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Task Force*, were recognized for modernizing the DBE and Airport Concessions DBE programs. The team was awarded the **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Team Award**. The award honors employees, supervisors, managers or teams that drive diversity, equity, and inclusion through effective leadership, skill, imagination, and perseverance.

Congratulations to all the recipients!



Welcome New Members

Member Name	Region	Recruited By
Maria Jimenez	Southern	Freidy Lazala
Dawne Barrett	Great Lakes	Oscar Torres
Ian Lewis	Western-Pacific	Oscar Torres
Aaron Mosley	Southern	Oscar Torres
Nathan Gardner	Alaska	SUPCOM
Anthony Garcia	Western-Pacific	Oscar Torres
Jason Johnson	Western-Pacific	Nat Perez
Andres Hernandez	Western-Pacific	Susie Diaz
Jennifer Dempster	Eastern/New England	Oscar Torres
Tracy Rios	Eastern/New England	
Rebecca Gonzalez	Western Pacific	
Denisse Rivera	Eastern/New England	Oscar Torres
Daniel Rosado Castro	Southern	Javier Quinones
Jose Castellanos Torres	Southern	Oscar Torres
Cesar Cordero	Southwest	Oscar Torres
Tyler Garcia	Northwest Mountain	Antonio Garcia
Benjamin Silva	Southwest	Maritza Miranda
Nathaniel Williams	Western-Pacific	
Pedro Buentello III	Western-Pacific	Brandon Esquer
Matthew Harman	Western-Pacific	
Elizandro Gonzalez	Western-Pacific	
Julian Olivares	Western-Pacific	Brandon Esquer
Tony Wilson	MMAC	John Espinosa

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