

**Minutes of the Hispanic Committee of Gainesville / Hall County
Meeting held on November 7, 2001 at Penny University Coffee Shop**

Members Present: Greg Bautista, Homero Lopez, Duvan Gerrero, Faye Bush, Ruben Mauricio, Stella Arena, Camille Viera, Sonia Magaña, Beatriz Mauesberg, Janeth Ochoa, Cindy Bryant, Olga Chavez, Carmen Mas, Ramon Moreno, Lee Anzola, Megan Powlos, Catalina Chavez, Claudia Olivares, Gustavo Lobo, Steve Ballowe, Sara K Natal, Gisela Teeple.

Special Guest: Ramon Moreno, Director of Protection Services, Mexican Consulate of Atlanta (serving Mexicans in Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee) and Dorothy Shinefelt, of the Alliance for Literacy

After welcome and introductions, Mr. Moreno was invited to speak, and to share with the group an update on consular activities. Mr. Moreno discussed several current activities, including the campaign currently underway to collect 50,000 signatures to petition the Governor to change the drivers license law.

Homero Lopez made a motion to accept approve the minutes of the September 19, 2001 meeting. The motion was seconded by Gustavo Lobo. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Camille Viera presented the financial report. The report shows a small amount of activity since our last meeting, including a \$60.00 deposit, no payments, and an ending balance of \$953.46. Gustavo Lobo made a motion to approve the financial report. The motion was seconded by Reuben Mauricio. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Amigos del Comite Hispano – Greg Bautista described the purpose of this initiative: to raise money for the organization. A sub-committee has been formed to develop this further. The sub-committee will create membership cards for people in the community and businesses interested in becoming “Amigos del Comité Hispano” for the purpose of supporting the Hispanic Committee. There was some discussion about donation levels and other details. This topic will be taken-up by the sub-committee outside of the main group meetings. The sub-committee will work on the specific details and report back to the entire group.

Think tank Sub-committee – Dr. Carmen Mas reported that the Think Tank has received presentations from two groups. One presentation was at the Hall County Health Department, the other was with the Gainesville City Schools. Dr. Mas presented written reports for the members to review.

Citizenship and Voter Registration Campaign – Lee Anzola reported that the sub committee will be partnering with the Alliance for Literacy. The Alliance for Literacy conducts a Citizenship Class on a regular basis, which helps prepare individuals for naturalization and the Citizenship Exam.

- MISSION STATEMENT -

Our mission is to establish a bridge between the Hispanic and non-Hispanic community, to maintain a two-lane road that effectively communicates our concerns and opinions, provides direction in finding solution to social, economic and political issues, and transports the will of the people to achieve clearly-defined objectives through active representation.

Holiday Social Event – Sonia Magaña distributed a volunteer sign-up sheet, and asked persons to volunteer for specific projects (decorations, music, invitations, food, etc.)

Dues for the 2002 year – Greg Bautista distributed the payment invoices for persons to pay their 2002 membership dues. The dues will remain the same as 2001: just \$60 for individuals, \$30 for students, \$120 and up for corporations, businesses and organizations.

Several “Early Birds” have already paid their 2002 dues, and they were given a round of applause and thanks.

MIAMI! The Annual Conference of the National Council of La Raza – Greg announced that a small grant has been received, and part of that money can be used to help send individuals to the NCLR annual conference in Miami Saturday, July 20 through Wednesday, July 24, 2002.

Frontline Leadership Training – Several members have requested opportunities for learning, education and professional development as part of the Hispanic Committee. To that end, we are trying to poll interest in conducting a special training locally in Gainesville, titled “Frontline Leadership: The Core Interpersonal Skills.” The training would through the University of Georgia’s Fanning Leadership Institute. Greg distributed a flier about the proposed program. Persons who are interested should contact Olga Chavez at (770) 297-7755.

With great regret Greg announced the resignation of Cynthia Purcell-Rios as the Secretary of the Comité Hispano. Cynthia wrote a letter in which she explained that she is too pressed for time due to the growing demand for services offered by the Peoples’ Center and the numerous program commitments with the crisis line. Homero Lopez agreed to take the minutes for us at the November 7 meeting, and the group thanked him for doing so.

At the next meeting of the Comité Hispano on February 20 we will take-up the matter of appointing a replacement secretary through the end of the 2001-2002 term.

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 20, 2002 from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM at Penny University Coffee Shop.

Also, Greg Bautista confirmed that the rest of the meetings for the year remain on the calendar: Wednesday, April 17, 2002 and Wednesday, June 19, 2002. Meetings will be from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM at Penny University Coffee Shop unless otherwise announced.

There having been no further business to cover, the meeting was adjourned.