



El Puente

National Latino Peace Officers Association



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December 2008

Honoring Family, Education, and Community through Service and Mentorship since 1972.

2009 - 2010 Executive Board



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Newly Elected NLPOA National President



Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo has been elected president of the National Latino Peace Officers Association, defeating a fellow contender from a Texas law enforcement agency.

Chief Acevedo will serve a two-year term, culminating with the group's annual convention that will be held in Austin in 2010. The election was held in Denver at the organization's 35th National NLPOA Training Institute and Convention.

The NLPOA Mission includes recruiting qualified Latino police officers, give support to them during their new-hire probationary periods and encourage them to participate in training and education programs.

Arturo Acevedo succeeds Roy Garivey, a Lieutenant with the Houston Independent School District.

"I'm honored to represent an organization I've been part of for 18 years," Acevedo said. "To see the growth of the organization and its members, I think speak volumes about our success in the community."

2009 - 2010 Executive Board



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National Latino Peace Officers Association® invites you to become a part of El Puente! El Puente is the official publication of the National Latino Peace Officers Association (NLPOA) and is published three times a year. The El Puente is distributed to more than 20,000 individuals and over 2,500 institutions and has been published continuously since 1976.

About the NLPOA: The National Latino Peace Officers Association is the largest Latino Law Enforcement Organization in the United States. With membership exceeding 20,000, NLPOA covers officers in almost every state and at all career levels.

The National Latino Peace Officers Association does not discriminate in its membership. As such, a percentage of our members are non-Latinos and have joined with us in supporting our goals and objectives.

NLPOA's goal is to promote equality and professionalism in law enforcement. We accomplish by providing our members, and members of the community, with career training, conferences and workshops and by promoting education, career advancement, mentoring, and a strong commitment to community service in all of our activities.

Why El Puente Newsletter: El Puente readers are members of the largest minority group in the country. By 2020 it is estimated that one out of every five U.S. residents will be Hispanic! El Puente is a fantastic source to cost-effectively target Latino law enforcement professionals and Latino members in the U.S. military and university systems.

We look forward to creating an El Puente advertising program for you. Contact CITYCENTURIAN@HOTMAIL.COM to coordinate your advertising and to obtain current specials and advertising opportunities.

Juan G. Ferreira

Nacional NLPOA El Puente Editor
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**National Latino Peace Officers Association
36th National Training Institute & Conference**

**Co-Sponsored by CCWA
The Chicano Correctional Workers Association**

May 27, 28, 29, & 30, 2009
Training starts Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.

\$118 single/double per night plus tax
{Rates available from May 25 - May 31, 2009}



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MEMBERS or discounted to \$220 non-members**

Register now for the **36th NLPOA National Training Institute and Conference in Beautiful Universal City Hollywood, California.** The NLPOA East Los Angeles Chapter has scheduled numerous activities for those attending.

EXHIBIT SHOWCASE... An exposition offering attendees an excellent look at new products, services, and law enforcement recruiters.

OPENING PLENARY SESSION... Is offered as a featured presentation by leading political figures that make and influence policy. This session is designed to set the tone for the captivated training that follows.

NATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE... 20-plus hours of meaningful and informative workshops on key issues that affect

Law Enforcement in America. The presentations are offered through panel presentations, workshops and seminars.

National FBI Instructors
Law Enforcement Leadership Classes
Police, Investigations Classes
Corrections, Gangs, Probation Classes

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET...“Officer of The Year Award and Leadership Awards” are offered as a featured presentation showcasing the best in Law Enforcement today.
www.nlpoa.org

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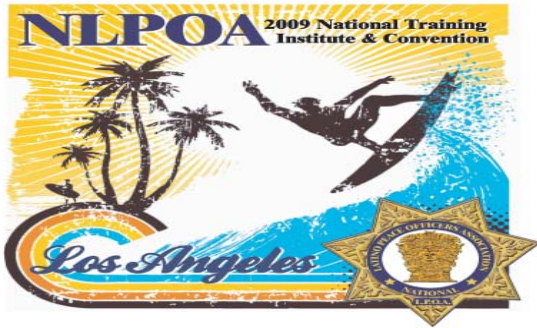
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**National Latino Peace Officers Association
CCWA Votes to Co-Sponsor
NLPOA 2009 National Convention**



CCWA Training Conference
Nov. 8-10, 2008 Ontario, CA
L-R, CCWA Southern Region VP-Mary Duran,
CCWA President Margaret Gandera,
NLPOA National Business Manager Lupe Barrera,
CCWA Corcoran II Chapter President Kelley Santoro



2009 National NLPOA Conference Sponsor



2009 National NLPOA Conference Sponsor



National Latino Peace Officers Association

Through a special partnership with the National Latino Peace Officers Association, NLPOA members receive significant savings on Excelsior College tuition and fees. A leader in distance education, Excelsior College offers a flexible/effective way to: earn credit through Excelsior College Exams and Online Courses bank previously earned credits earn degrees and certificates

The following programs are particularly well suited to NLPOA personnel.

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Contact our Admissions office in either of the following ways: Toll free phone: 888-647-2388 (ext. 27) Email: admissions@excelsior.edu



**35th National NLPOA Training institute and
Convention - Denver, Colorado
Events and Awards!**

2008 NLPOA President's Luncheon



2008 National Board Meeting and Elections!



Welcome New Chapters for 2008!

NLPOA Sacramento Metro, CA
Jose Sais, President
jsais2001@yahoo.com

NLPOA New Jersey State Police Chapter
Sgt. Juan Castellanos

NLPOA El Paso County Chapter, Texas
Sally Gallegos, President
3293700@yahoo.com

NLPOA Denver Sheriff's Chapter, Colorado
Cuauhtemol Espinoza, President
Cauhtemol.Espinoza@denvergov.org

NLPOA Berks County, PA Chapter
Ramon Caraballo, President
berksnlpoa@yahoo.com

**NLPOA 2008 OFFICER OF THE YEAR
For Outstanding Bravery**



Officer Ricardo Lara
Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Nevada

The National Latino Peace Officers Association (NLPOA) has selected LVMPD Officer Ricardo Lara as the recipient of the 2008 NLPOA Officer-of-the-Year Award for his Outstanding Bravery. Officer Lara has been a police officer with the LVMPD for the last 4½ years. He is currently assigned to the new Enterprise Area Command of the Valley Patrol Division. Officer Lara and his partner, Dale Jones were honored by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department earlier this year and were presented with the Purple Heart Award and the Medal of Valor for the heroic actions taken during the February 26th, 2007 shootout in which both officers were injured. Officer Lara was shot six (6) times during the response.

**NLPOA National Firearms Competition
October 30, 2008 "The Best of the Best" Winners**



Front row L-to-R Second Place- Jim Anderson, Minnesota; Third Place- Steve Fajardo, California; and First Place – Alex George, California. Back Row left to right – Frank Balkcom and Pete Coors

2008 Leadership Award Recipient



**Richard Salas, Lieutenant Colonel
Colorado State Patrol**

Lieutenant Colonel Richard Salas is a 26-year veteran with the Colorado State Patrol. He is the commander of the Operational Services Region which compasses the Executive Security, Communications, Homeland Security, Special Enforcement Operations and Motor Carrier Safety divisions. He attended college at Mesa State, Utah State University and Colorado State University. Salas joined the Colorado State Patrol in 1980. In 2003 Lieutenant Colonel Salas was promoted to the rank of Major. His tenure as a Major includes the Colorado State Patrol Academy Director, Commander of the Operational Services Branch and Commander/Director of the Homeland Security Branch. In August of 2006, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. He is a graduate and elected class president of class #202 of the Northwestern University Traffic Institute's School of Police Staff and Command.

2008 Leadership Award Recipient



**Kenneth D. Chavez, Lieutenant
Denver Police Department, Colorado**

Lt. Kenneth D. Chavez has been a member of the Denver Police for 29 years. He is assigned to the Gang Bureau as the Day Shift Commander. Assignments include: Vice Narcotics, Sex Assaults, Homicide, Metro SWAT, Intelligence, DIA, Aides to the Division Chief of Investigations and Patrol, and the Air Support. He is a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command. He is also on the Board of Directors, NLPOA Denver Chapter. Lt. Colonel Chavez is a member of the Colorado Army National Guard for 28 years, entire career as a member of the Army Special

Forces (*Green Beret*). He is the Commander of 5th Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne). He has been mobilized to Active Duty for to the Republic of Haiti, in 1995, Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom in 2002-2003, for Hurricane KATRINA in 2005, and to Iraq for Operation IRAQI FREEDOM 2007 – 2008.

2008 Leadership Award Recipient



**David A. Felix, Deputy Director
Arizona Department of Public Safety**

Deputy Director David A. Felix has been with the Arizona Department of Public Safety for over 36-years and has worked various assignments throughout the state of Arizona. Deputy Director Felix began his career with DPS in 1971 as a communications dispatcher with assignments in Globe and Phoenix. He graduated from the DPS Academy in 1975 and spent his first six years as a highway patrol officer in a remote duty assignment in Western Arizona. During this assignment his additional responsibilities included serving as a field training officer.

Deputy Director Felix was promoted to sergeant in 1981 and served as a supervisor in the Southern Narcotics District in Tucson. In narcotics he supervised officers in narcotics intelligence, air interdiction and the prescription fraud unit. In 1985 he was assigned to the Arizona Law Enforcement Training Academy as a cadet class supervisor.

NLPOA EL PUENTE News December 1978!

Merry Christmas - Happy New Year



Feliz Navidad y Prospero Año Nuevo



**"EL
PUENTE"**

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
LATINO PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME I, NO. 4 DECEMBER 1978 332 North Second St. SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95112

2008 Leadership Award Recipient



**David G. Dominguez, Chief of Police
Palm Springs Police Department, California**

Chief Dominguez is a member of the NLPOA Riverside County Chapter, California. Dominguez was sworn in as Palm Springs' first Latino police chief, pledging to "work very hard to make this a continued safe city." David G. Dominguez, served as the Riverside Deputy Chief of Police from 2003 -2007. He was appointed the new Chief of Police for the Palm Springs Police Department, California, in December 2007. "This appointment is a testament to Dave's successful 28- years in law enforcement; his demonstrated leadership and overwhelming commitment to community policing," Dominguez began his law enforcement career with the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department in 1979, serving in corrections, detectives, training, community policing and other roles. He joined the Riverside Police Department as a Lieutenant in 1994.

2008 Leadership Award Recipient



**Raymond Loera
Sheriff Imperial County, California**

Sheriff Raymond Loera is a member of the NLPOA California State Chapter. Sheriff Loera is the 14th Sheriff of Imperial County, California. He also serves as the County Coroner and Marshall. Prior to being elected to his present Office, Sheriff Loera served as Chief of Police for the City of El Centro, California. Sheriff Loera is a 34-year law Enforcement veteran. He promoted through the ranks of the El Centro Police Department.

Sheriff Loera graduated from San Diego State University. He holds Advanced, Supervisory, Management and Executive Certification from the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training. He is a graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy. Elected Sheriff of Imperial County January 2007.

2008 Leadership Award Recipient



**Ralph Rivera, Jr.
Undersheriff Bergen County, New Jersey**

Rivera Jr. is a member of the NLPOA New Jersey State Chapter. Rivera, Jr. has spent 30 years in law enforcement. After a distinguished career with the New Jersey State Police, on January 1, 2005, Ralph Rivera, Jr. was appointed to serve as the Bergen County Sheriff's Office Executive Undersheriff. Rivera, Jr. spent 27 years with the NJSP, retiring at the rank of Major. Undersheriff Rivera, Jr. is a graduate of the elite FBI National Academy, a Certified Affirmative Action Mediator, a Certified Public Manager and a member of the Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education. He received his baccalaureate degree from Fordham University and earned his Masters of Arts degree in Education from Seton Hall University. He is also a Fellow of Leadership New Jersey, Class of 2001.

2008 Leadership Award Recipient



**Jose A. Lopez, Sr., Chief of Police
Durham Police Department, North Carolina**

Jose A. Lopez, Sr. is a member of the NLPOA having started with the NLPOA Connecticut Chapter and now with the NLPOA North Carolina State Chapter. Chief Lopez, Sr. served over 24-years with the Hartford Police Department retiring as Assistant Chief of Police. Jose A. Lopez Sr. was selected Chief of Police in Durham, North Carolina in September 2007. Chief Lopez, Sr. holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from John Jay College of Criminal Justice with a minor in Police Science. He is a graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy and earned a certificate from the Criminal Justice Command Institute in Supervisory Leadership.

2008 LIFETIME MEMBERHIP AWARD



**Richard Calderon, Captain
San Jose Police Department, CA
NLPOA Santa Clara Chapter, CA**

Richard Calderon was selected for his leadership and commitment to the NLPOA for the past 35 years. Richard is a founding member and former President of the National Latino Peace Officers Association (NLPOA), Santa Clara County Chapter, California.

2008 LIFETIME MEMBERHIP AWARD



**Jose Santiago, Lieutenant
San Jose Police Department, CA
2008 NLPOA Lifetime Membership Recipient –
Posthumously**

Jose Santiago was selected for his leadership and commitment to the NLPOA for the past 34 years. Jose is a member National Latino Peace Officers Association (NLPOA), San Clara County Chapter, California.

2008 LIFETIME MEMBERHIP AWARD



**Robert Bravo, Capt. Retired
Santa Clara County Department of Corrections, CA
NLPOA Santa Clara Chapter, CA**

Robert Bravo was selected for his leadership and commitment to the NLPOA for the past 35 years. Robert is an original member National Latino Peace Officers Association (NLPOA), Santa Clara County Chapter, California. Robert retired as a Captain for the Santa Clara County Department of Corrections, have been previously serving as a Lieutenant for the San Jose Police Department, California. Captain Bravo retired in 2004 after more than 30 years of law enforcement service. Robert Bravo served as the NLPOA Santa Clara County, California, chapter president in 1977 and 1978.

2008 LIFETIME MEMBERHIP AWARD



**Manuel Rodriguez, Assistant Chief
National City Police, CA
NLPOA San Diego Metro Chapter, CA**

Manuel was selected for his leadership and commitment to the NLPOA for the past 17 years. Assistant Chief Rodriguez is a founding member and former President of the National Latino Peace Officers Association (NLPOA), San Diego Metro Chapter. He was instrumental in the growth of the local chapter, which is one of the largest California chapters. Manuel Rodriguez is an Assistant Chief with the National City Police Department. Manuel spent almost 20 years with the San Diego Police Department. Manuel holds a Masters Degree in Organizational Leadership from National University, Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration from San Diego State University and is a LEAD graduate.

**NLPOA San Diego County Chapter, CA
Annual Youth 2008 Thanksgiving Dinner**



The dinner is held annually with a number of community organizations sending kids to the function. This year the National City Youth Club which is sponsored by the San Diego County Chapter was well represented along with their hardy appetites.

NLPOA Sonoma County Chapter, CA



**Scholarship Recipient Stephen T. Ladow &
NLPOA Sonoma Chapter, CA - President Mario Jimenez**

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**MillerCoors Unveils Hispanic *Líder* of the Year
Lupe Barrera receives 2008 *Líder* of the Year
Award**



Lupe Barrera

Golden, Colo. (December 1, 2008) – *MillerCoors* announced today that Lupe Barrera, from the National Latino Peace Officers Association, has received the 2008 *Líder* of the Year Award. According to Joedis Avila, Multicultural Relations Manager for *MillerCoors*, the **Líder of the Year Award** is part of the company's *Líderes* program and is intended to raise awareness about the important work and contributions Hispanic leaders are making in their communities. The **Líderes Program**, launched in 2006, celebrates and supports leadership within the Hispanic community.

Arturo Acevedo, National NLPOA President

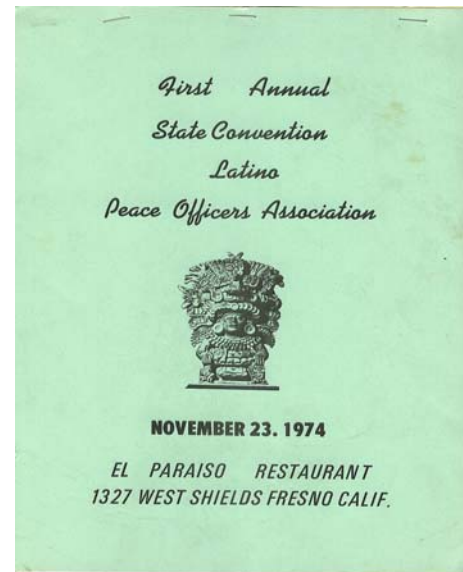
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Remembering Our History
1st NLPOA Convention and Banquet
November 23, 1974



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NLPOA National Dues – Due
January 15, 2009

Nick Yanez -National NLPOA Treasurer

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National 2009 OFFICER-OF-THE-YEAR
NOMINATIONS DUE APRIL 1, 2008



Edwin Maldonado

East Coast Vice President Plainfield, New Jersey

Please send to Edwin Maldonado

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