

United States/Mexico Sister Cities Association, Inc.



PRESS RELEASE

United States/Mexico Sister Cities Association held their 48th annual national conference in Riverside, California on January 21-23, 2011 beginning with a Welcoming Reception and Business Mixer at the Mission Inn on Friday with the California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, **and the Greater Riverside Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**. Many thanks to the **City of Riverside, the Mayor's Office, and the International Relations Council of Riverside, and to USMSCA** President, Connie Goertz, for the time and effort she put in to make this 48th conference a great success.

The General Opening & Business Session began with a presentation from the Poly High Color Guard. President Connie Goertz (San Diego) welcomed members and introduced visiting mayors, cities in attendance and board members.

The keynote luncheon speaker was Carolina Zaragoza Flores from the Mexican Consulate in San Bernardino. She noted statistics on trade and commerce within North America. Thanks to **Fundacion Jalisco who provided the tequila refreshments and to singer Martin Delgadillo**. John Chiang, California State Controller spoke on the state of California in trade, population, and finance. Workshops included University of Guadalajara in the U.S.A., Building community across borders, Student exchange programs, Disaster preparedness, CPR, K-9 and Paramedic Operations.

The Executive Board was elected as follows: President George Barks (Hermosa, Manhattan & Redondo Beaches), Vice-President Dolores Covarrubias (Paramount), Secretary Alice Vasquez (Santa Barbara), Treasurer Tony Gonzalez (Santa Barbara), Re-elected Directors to the board are: George Barks (Beach Cities), Bob Perez (Monterey Park) and Ralph Mundia (Downey). New Directors added to the board are: Robert Rubio (Downey), Art Torres (Riverside), and Irma Zamorano (El Monte).

A gala dinner in the Marriott Regency Ballroom was followed by Awards for 2010 projects to the cities of Santa Barbara, Paramount, and Hermosa Beach. Youth Essay Awards were presented to college-\$1,000: Joseph Trujillo (Gardena), high school-\$500: Ariana Garcia (El Monte), Anthony Nevarez (So. El Monte), Enrique Ramirez (Laredo, TX) and Patricia Silva (Laredo, TX).

A tour of March Air Force Base rounded out the conference.

Frances Madrigal, (Azusa Sister City)
Youth Scholarship Chair
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