

LATINO AMERICAN COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED IN 1972 | SPRING 2016 NEWSLETTER | WWW.LATINOAC.NEBRASKA.GOV



Mission Statement: The mission of the Latino - American Commission is to serve as a voice in the Nebraska State Government for Latino Americans/ Latinos.

Vision Statement: The vision of the Latino - American Commission is to empower the Latino Community through a pro-active approach to issues that affect their access to educational, political, economical and social opportunities in Nebraska.

2016 Nebraska Legislative Session Update

The 2016 Legislative Session was January 6 to April 20. The Legislative Bills listed below were a few NLAC followed, supported or opposed:

- LB 675 (Krist) - Change provisions relating to placement and detention of juveniles, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 679 (Krist) - Change reporting requirements of the Community Corrections Division of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, was signed into law by the Governor on April 6;
- LB 680 (Riepe) - Change requirements for pharmacy technicians, was signed into law by the Governor on April 6;
- LB 682 (Craighead) - Change deadlines for ballots for early voting and special elections by mail, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 685 (Bolz) - Adopt the Student Loan Repayment Tax Credit Act, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 688 (Bloomfield) - Require all examinations and test of applicants under the Motor Vehicle Operator's License Act be in English, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 690 (Morfeld) - Change provisions relating to eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 691 (Morfeld) - Adopt the Teacher Education and Health Care Professions Student Grant Program Act, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 696 (Howard) - Provide for a Medicaid state plan waiver to provide coverage for treatment of opioid abuse, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 713 (Stinner) - State intent relating to appropriations for the Access College Early Scholarship Program, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 721 (Baker) - Adopt the Surgical First Assistant Practice Act, signed into law by the Governor on April 19;
- LB 741 (Hansen) - Change electioneering provisions related to yard signs, did not make it out of Committee, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 742 (Hansen) - Change county population thresholds, signed into law by the Governor on April 7;
- LB 743 (Hansen) - Clarify compensation for shoulder injuries under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act, was indefinitely postponed;
- LB 752 (Crawford) - Create the Adult Career Pathways Task

Force, did not make it out of Committee, indefinitely postponed;

- LB 755 (Watermeier) - Appropriate funds to the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges, did not make it out of Committee, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 767 (Garrett) - Prohibit dismemberment abortion as prescribed and provide for civil and criminal penalties, did not make it out of Committee, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 779 (Schumacher) - Change provisions relating to the partisan status of certain political subdivision offices, did not make it out of Committee, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 780 (Schumacher) - Change provisions relating to emergency protective custody, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 782 (Schumacher) - Provide for a Medicaid state plan amendment relating to coverage for family planning services, did not make it out of Committee, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 787 (Morfeld) - Allow a voter to photograph and reveal a marked ballot, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 792 (Kuehn) - Prohibit certain former officeholders and public employees from being lobbyists, did not make it out of Committee, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 800 (Bolz) - State intent relating to an appropriation to the State Department of Education for job-driven training and education, did not make it out of Committee, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 816 (Scheer) - Change and eliminate provisions relating to state institution patients' records, signed into law by the Governor on April 6;
- LB 817 (Riepe) - Adopt Direct Primary Care Agreement Act, signed into law by the Governor on March 30;
- LB 830 (Harr) - Redefine employment under the Employment Security Law and change provisions relating to vacation leave for state employees, signed into law by the Governor on April 18;
- LB 838 (Bolz) - State intent relating to an appropriation to the State Department of Education for an educational specialist, did not make it out of Committee, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 843 (Pansing-Brooks) - Provide immunity from prosecution for prostitution and change forensic medical examination provisions,

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Lazaro Arturo Spindola
NLAC Executive Director

Latino American Commission Commissioners

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Jack Gutierrez (Vice Chair)

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A Message from the Executive Director

The Nebraska Legislative Session has ended, and with it new laws were passed. LB 947 introduced by Sen. Mello allows DACA recipients to pursue commercial/professional licenses. It received a majority vote on the floor, was Governor vetoed, and the veto was overridden allowing LB 947 to become law that same day. We would like to thank the following senators who supported the bill: Baker, Bolz, Campbell, Chambers, Coash, Cook, Crawford, Ebke, Garrett, Gloor, Haar, K., Hadley, Hansen, Harr, B., Hilkemann, Howard, Kolowski, Krist, Lindstrom, McCollister, Mello, Morfeld, Pansing Brooks, Scheer, Schilz, Schumacher, Seiler, Smith, Stinner, Sullivan and Williams.

The General Election will be on November 8. It is important that Latinos participate. There is still time to register to vote if you haven't already done so. You need to be an American citizen age 18 or over and have not already registered. The only time you re-register is when you change your name, your address or your political party affiliation.

You can register to vote in person at your County Clerk/Election Commissioner's office, to find your county's office visit: <http://www.sos.ne.gov/elec/clerks.html>. You can also register to vote at the Dept. of Motor Vehicles when applying/renewing your driver's license, or the NE Dept. of Health & Human Services, or NE Dept. of Education.

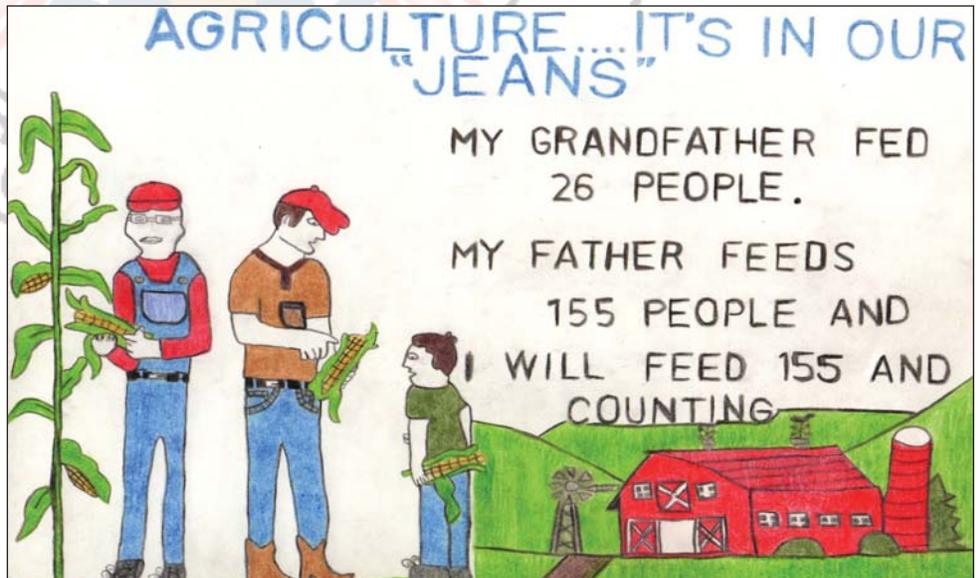
If you are unable to travel, you can register online at: <https://www.nebraska.gov/apps-sos-voter-registration/> or register by mail with a Voter Registration Application available at banks, post offices and libraries. Additional information about voting can be found at the Secretary of States' website: http://www.sos.ne.gov/elec/voter_info.html

Along with the importance of voting, Hispanic/Latinos must also think about the possibility of running as candidates. There is a dismally small Latino representation among Nebraska's elected officials. We must congratulate the following who decided to run:

1. Legislative District 7: Tony Vargas received majority vote;
2. Legislative District 5: Gilbert Ayala, will advance to the General Election;
3. Metro Community College Board: Roger Garcia, will auto advance to General Election;
4. Western Community College Board: Linda Guzman-Gonzales, will auto advance; and
5. Finally, Emilio Llanes did not advance in the Hastings Mayoral Election, and in the Ord City Council, Ward 2 Election: Pedro Camacho did not advance.

All of these candidates are worthy of our respect; we must keep encouraging them and not allow frustration to creep in. We apologize if we have missed any Latino candidates. Please let us know whom we have missed from our list.

National Ag Week Poster Winner



The Nebraska Department of Agriculture hosted a statewide poster contest for National Ag Week. The First Place winner in the fifth-sixth grade category was Brenda Lazaro Romero, a Fifth Grader from Knickrehm Elementary School in Grand Island. She received a congratulatory letter and a signed certificate. Pictured above is her winning poster.

Lexington Student Wins Letters About Literature



(Above, Left) Julia Briones receives a cash prize and a glow-in-the-dark pencil from Nebraska Letters About Literature Contest organizer Laureen Riedesel at the luncheon to publicly recognize Julia's achievements. (Above, Right) Julia Briones receives a certificate from Governor Pete Ricketts on April 6 at a proclamation ceremony at the Capitol Building in Lincoln. Julie, along with the remaining five contest winners, represented Nebraska students for the proclamation signing of National Library Week in Nebraska. Julia is the second place winner for the high school division of the contest.

Six students in Nebraska were chosen as the winners of the 2016 Letters about Literature writing contest. One of the winning students is a Latina: Julia Briones, a sophomore attending Lexington High School.

Letters about Literature is a writing program with almost 50,000 participants nationwide in grades four through twelve. The annual contest, sponsored by Center for the Book with the Library of Congress, asks students to write a personal letter to an author (living or dead) of any genre who has had an impact on their lives. Winners were chosen from three levels: upper elementary, middle school and high school.

Briones received second place in the high school division for her letter to author Khaled Hosseini about his book, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*.

The Nebraska Library Commission oversaw the Letters about Literature contest in Nebraska, sharing information with the state's libraries and schools. Hundreds of Letters were submitted by Nebraska students.

Briones and the five winners were publicly honored by Governor Pete Ricketts on April 6 at a proclamation-signing ceremony celebrating National Library Week, April 10-16, 2016.

Afterward, they were recognized at a luncheon and received cash prizes and gift certificates. Their winning Letters will be placed in the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors at Bennett Martin Public Library in Lincoln. They will advance to the national competition with a chance to travel to Washington, D.C. for themselves and their parents. As the second place winner, Briones also serves as the Alternate Winner, meaning if first place winner Colette Mahr of Chadron is unable to go to Washington, D.C., Briones will go in her place to represent Nebraska.

Julia Briones' winning Letter is published below with her permission:

Dear Mr. Hosseini,

Before I read your book, I had never really asked myself what the Abdus and Mohammeds of America thought of all the hateful stereotypes associated with their culture. (I realize that statement, in and of itself, is a stereotype, but I am not meticulously censoring my phrasing, as I've recently concluded, after an in-depth conversation with a diverse group of people, that by censoring oneself, one quickly loses transparency and depth in conversations.)

I never asked myself if they felt compelled to shout, "No! No, you've got it all wrong!" I am Hispanic, I am a first-generation Mexican American—I know what it feels like to have my culture dissected and gossiped about. I know what it feels like to have America harvest achievements and qualities from my culture, rejecting those deemed as an unfit contribution to the nation's "melting pot." It should have run across my mind much sooner than it did, but I was ignorant, and blissfully so by choice.

Reading *A Thousand Splendid Suns* was...a bucket of arctic-cold water dumped over my sleeping, oblivious body, droplets hitting my bare skin. While one is taught about the Middle Eastern countries by teachers, news anchors, websites, and parents, there is a difference between hearing about noteworthy events and figures, and fully comprehending a culture, in all its glory, cringe worthy flaws and all. Prior to reading your novel, I was yet another American too immersed in the current trending topics to even consider "wasting" my time delving further into the largely Islamic Middle Eastern culture. After all, I was living in America, the land of the free and the home of the brave. All I needed to know about the Middle East was common knowledge; it was an Islamic region, it had a surplus of extremists and terrorists, and was in a perpetual cycle of chaos, as the news constantly showed. I thought, "Unfortunately, some innocent lives are affected, perhaps even killed, but, at the end of the day, it is those people's fault for not taking control of their futures, of their nation. Right?"

I was wrong, so wrong, and the truly depressing part of that fact is that I knew I was. Deep down, at my core, I felt a conflict with those thoughts, and that led to me wondering whether I could actually say that to someone who was a mother, just like mine, struggling in the Middle East.

In a way, that was why, when my older sister brought home a copy of *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, I closed my copy of Sarah Dessen's newest chicklit novel, and curiously eyed your book. With some encouragement from my older sister's enthusiastically positive review, I picked it up and meticulously examined the cover: a figure that appeared to be a woman, with her back to the reader, looking out over a town set in a barren, dry setting. It was a depressing sight, to see a lonesome figure contemplating such a dreary view, under the hope-inducing words, a thousand splendid suns, printed in capital letters, red, and bold. Just like that, I was hooked.

I finished the book that day, and started rereading my favorite parts

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2016 Session Continued...

signed into law by the Governor on April 13;

- LB 852 (Cook) - Appropriate funds for aid to community colleges, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 868 (Krist) - Require successful completion of a civics examination as a prerequisite to high school graduation, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 869 (Crawford) - Require that certain providers under the Medical Assistance Act be subject to a national criminal history record information check, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 871 (Murante) - Provide for a presidential preference primary election, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 874 (Murante) - Change provisions of the Election Act, signed into law by the Governor on April 13;
- LB 879 (Murante) - Change signature requirements for partisan candidates, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 892 (Kintner) - Change provisions relating to intimidation by telephone call, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 912 (Smith) - Change requirements for presentation of identification for purposes of voting, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 923 (Stinner) - Appropriate funds for federally qualified health centers, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 932 (Crawford) - Redefine not-for-profit organization for purposes of liability provisions, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 939 (Mello) - Adopt the Nebraska Early Childhood Advantage Act, placed on General File, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 947 (Mello) - State intent relating to professional or commercial licenses for certain aliens and restrict credential issuance as prescribed, passed into law notwithstanding the Governor's objections on April 20;
- LB 953 (Kolterman) - Provide protection for qualified adults from financial exploitation, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 962 (Fox) - Change requirements for the practice of acupuncture, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 966 (Kintner) - Adopt the Refugee Resettlement Agency Indemnification Act, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 997 (Krist) - Change provisions regarding the Nebraska Capitol Commission and office space within the State Capitol, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 1016 (Watermeier) - Redefine agency under the Legislative Performance Audit Act, signed into law by the Governor on March 7;
- LB 1045 (Ebke) - Provide for the treatment of certain contractors as independent contractors as prescribed, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 1055 (Chambers) - Open grand jury proceedings to the public as prescribed and change procedures in cases of death during apprehension by law enforcement officers or while in custody, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 1074 (Kolowski) - Appropriate funds to the State Department of Education, indefinitely postponed;
- LB 1092 (Mello) - Change provisions relating to budget request reporting requirements, signed into law by the Governor on March 30; and
- LB 1095 (Kintner) - Require employer identification numbers and the use of the federal immigration verification system, indefinitely postponed.

Letter Continued...

after dinner. For weeks, I sneaked to my sister's desk, and took it out, reading through certain chapters, again and again, like a former beer addict who had been introduced to fine wine and thirstily, freely indulged himself in his new drug of choice. Without knowing it, I was also filling a gap in myself, one that was both intellectual and primitively human.

Through Mariam's words and descriptions, I saw the Middle East through a different lens. No longer was it the barren war zone I had been conditioned to know it as, but a place with rich diversity in landscape (sometimes desert-like, sometimes with rolling green hills) and communities (sometimes ridiculously affluent, sometimes dirt poor and desolate). It had mansions, suburbs, theatres, hair salons, farms, country homes, tiny towns, and booming metropolises. The inhabitants had families, hopes, jobs, relationships, and (healthy) religious beliefs. This picture forced me to address the fact that I needed to know more about this culture that I had written off as "different" and "irrelevant to me."

Moreover, my heart, reformed and won by Laila, went out to this culture's people. Thus began my research and interest in the Middle East, and my discoveries left me astounded. Stories of traditions and religion helped me comprehend the Middle Eastern culture's attachment to religion, as well as appreciate the simplicity in a life guided by family, religion, and duties. However, terrifying accounts of abuse at the hands of the Taliban, the never-ending corruption in governments, and the utter lack of opportunities made my heart ache and bleed for the Middle East—so much potential hindered before it could even reveal itself to the world, so many lives and relationships torn apart—for nothing! Simply for the whims of powerful men and women who knew nothing of courage, values, and love, despite their deadpan claims of being religious beings who strive for the upholding of morals.

It was after all this digging up of information that I realized it was because of those types of people that a whole culture, a whole group of people are given such a bad rap. Their reputation is stained in front of the whole world, and, because we buy that image and concept, the cycle continues. The Middle Eastern people are then deemed conniving and evil, sentenced to being labeled as a bunch of crazy terrorists and extremists who know nothing of order, and their voices are silenced. No one will give them the time of day, so there is no one to watch over those powerful men and women who make the lives of those silenced a living nightmare, much less protect the silenced.

Mr. Hosseini, you, however, are one of another group of powerful few; you belong to the select group of humans who have become the voices of those who cannot speak. For that, I thank and commend you. I am, undoubtedly, forever in your debt for having expanded my world, and opened my eyes and heart to the Middle East. I just want you to know that you are changing the world one book at a time, one reader at a time, one day at a time. Today, I want you to know, there is one more mind, heart, and soul changed.

Sincerely,
Julia Briones

2016 Farmworker Awareness Week & Cesar Chavez Day Proclamations in Nebraska



(Above) On March 9th, Governor Pete Ricketts signed Proclamations observing March 31st as Cesar Chavez Day of Service & Learning, and observing March 24th to March 31st as Farmworkers Awareness Week. Both Proclamations were signed together, and a long-sleeved shirt drive was organized by Proteus, Inc. to collect shirts for migrant and seasonal farmworkers to protect them from pesticide and sun exposure. From left to right: NLAC Staff Assistant Dora Lima, NLAC Chair Adrian Sanchez, former NLAC Commissioner and community leader Marty Ramirez, NLAC PIO Jasel Cantu, NLAC Executive Director Dr. Arturo Spindola (holding the Cesar Chavez Proclamation) Governor Ricketts, Susan Billups Rabick from the Proteus, Inc. Lincoln office, Valeria Rodriguez and Faviola Meza, UNL students representing the Mexican American Student Association (MASA), Jody Stutzman (holding the Farmworkers Awareness Week Proclamation) from the Proteus, Inc. Hastings office and shirt-drive organizer, Candida Kraska, Spanish educator from Millard Public Schools, Rachel Kreikemeier from the Proteus, Inc. Lincoln office, Thomas Ukinski, Legal Counsel from the Nebraska Department of Labor, and Kim Parnell from the Proteus, Inc. office in Lincoln. (Right) Candida Kraska, a Spanish educator from Millard West High School and Millard South High School organized her students into donating more than 50 long-sleeved shirts. MASA, NLAC, Hastings Head Start and First Presbyterian Church in Hastings also donated shirts, which will be distributed later in spring and summer to the workers. The drive was part of a regional effort with Proteus, Inc. offices in Nebraska, Indiana and Iowa collecting over 1,700 shirts, with 137 collected in Nebraska.



On March 9th, Governor Pete Ricketts signed a Proclamation with members of the Nebraska Minority Health Council observing April 2016 as National Minority Health Month in Nebraska. The goal of the Minority Health Council within the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) is to help raise public awareness about health and healthcare disparities affecting racial and ethnic minorities, and efforts to advance health equity. From left to right: Shandana Khattak, Research Analyst-DHHS, Blanca Ramirez-Salazar, Health Program Manager/Native American Liaison-DHHS, Gov. Ricketts, Dr. Janelle Ali-Dinar, Chair of the Minority Health Council, Josie Rodriguez, Administrator with Office of Health Disparities and Health Equity at DHHS-Division of Public Health, Lynne Le, Program Analyst-DHHS, NLAC Director Spindola, Kimberley Taylor-Riley, Director of Equity and Diversity with the City of Lincoln, and Anthony Zhang, Epidemiology Surveillance Coordinator-DHHS.

Pieces of Nebraskan Hispanic History

Visiting Nurse Association in South Omaha: 1928-30's

The following information was compiled from the article, "The Omaha Visiting Nurses Association during the 1920s and 1930s" originally published in 1989 in the 70th volume of "Nebraska History". The author is Mary Lyons-Barrett. Information and photographs have been reprinted with permission by the Nebraska State Historical Society. For the complete article, visit: www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/index

The Omaha Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) was founded in 1896 by Anna Millard with the goal of providing free health care to families.

Anna had received medical training at Johns Hopkins University and Columbia University. While in Europe, she was influenced by Florence Nightingale's system of district nursing and returned to Omaha to establish districtwide nursing for poor and immigrant communities.

The Omaha VNA had professionally trained nurses visit homes and operate community substations making health care and preventive medicine their primary concern.

In 1915, South Omaha was annexed by the City of Omaha. That same year, a slightly higher infant mortality rate was attributed to the newly annexed large immigrant population.

By 1920, there were 35,381 foreign-born residents living in Omaha, or 18.5 percent of the city population. Many Mexican families had moved to Omaha after the Mexican Revolution began in 1910, but the majority had come during and after World War I to settle around the packing plants in South Omaha.

The VNA board reported in 1924 that progress had been made through visiting nurses teaching in the home. They had been visiting Italian families at Christ Child Center and black families at the North Omaha baby station. In 1928, the VNA expanded to include Mexican families in South Omaha visiting homes and establishing a baby substation where nurses would weigh, measure, and examine babies' health.

The visiting nurses were responsible for all types of health care in their districts. There were also nurse supervisors who specialized in tuberculosis, obstetrics, venereal disease, orthopedics, or other areas. These supervisors trained fellow nurses and sometimes accompanied them on house calls.

Nurses taught expectant mothers personal hygiene, and how to maintain and improve the health of their children. They would also deliver milk and ice to the families.

The health problems of immigrants were accentuated by crowded living conditions, depressed finances, and language barriers, which prevented a proper dissemination of health care information. Overcrowding was described by the VNA as being particularly bad among the "foreign and colored population."

The VNA also decried the lack of low-rent housing for laboring men and their families. One family of seven was forced to live in a house with frozen gas and water pipes and one small stove.



An Omaha VNA visiting nurse (standing in background) at a home visit with one of her many patients, a Mexican family in South Omaha. Note the cast on the little girl's right leg. During the Depression the VNA was the only way many families received milk and fuel for their stoves. Names unknown. Photo taken by Nathaniel Dewell on May 19, 1926. This photo has been reprinted courtesy of the Nebraska State Historical Society.

T. Earl Sullenger, a sociologist at Omaha University, now known as University of Nebraska – Omaha, noted that the VNA's visiting nurses were highly respected in the South Omaha Mexican colony. In numerous cases the mother was the only link between the VNA and the immigrant family.

However, the language barrier was still an issue. Frieda Heatherington, a retired nurse who had worked with the VNA in 1925, recalled that none of the nurses she knew at that time were bilingual. She said that they sometimes called an older child or neighbor to interpret.

Schaefer also said visiting nurses often encouraged immigrants to apply for citizenship, and would refer them to the Council of Americanization for citizenship papers. This encouragement stems from 1921 when VNA Superintendent Florence McCabe issued a call for "100 percent Americanism," and also encouraged nurses to help with employment, dress, food, and daily problems.

In 1929, a week-long education program demonstrating corrective gymnastics, first aid, nutrition, and the "Health Crusade" against tuberculosis were conducted at the South Omaha VNA substation.

However, the upcoming Great Depression would challenge the VNA and the Omaha community. Unemployment was the main reason for the 21 percent increase in demand for VNA services in 1924. Statistics for Omaha compiled by the Chamber of Commerce showed the economy began slipping downward in 1930.

The effect of the Depression on health, poor living conditions and inadequate diet, was addressed by two programs the VNA helped create. In 1931, Marie Waite joined VNA's staff as a nutritionist. She helped open a VNA preschool nutrition clinic for mothers and children in South Omaha's city hall.

Between November 15, 1935, and March 24, 1936, there were over 1,900 cases of scarlet fever reported in Omaha, with the greatest number in South Omaha. The VNA closed eight baby stations in January and February of 1936 trying to contain the epidemic.

Upcoming Events

- **Meeting: June 4**
NLAC Quarterly Meeting - Lincoln
- **Holiday: July 4**
Independence Day
- **Last Day: July 11**
Last Day to Request Early Voting Ballot
- **Holiday: September 5**
Labor Day
- **Deadline Oct. 7**
Latino Summit Gallery of Stars Nomination
- **Vote: Oct. 10**
First Day to Vote Early in General Election
- **Holiday: Oct. 10**
Columbus Day
- **Election: Nov. 8**
Presidential General Election

Contact Information

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2016 Latino Summit Registration & Scholarship

The Latino Summit is an all-day educational conference open to high school students in Nebraska and features a Keynote Speaker, break-out sessions and lunch. The purpose is to encourage high school graduation and offer information, advice and tips on college readiness. There will be several college representatives at the Summit accepting applications and answering questions.

The breakout sessions provide information on financial aid, college programs and career panels.

This Summit will be the first year a scholarship will be offered for eligible high school seniors.

The Keynote Speaker is Carlos Ojeda, Jr., the founder of CoolSpeak: The Youth Engagement Company. He is the son of immigrants who overcame many obstacles to become the first in his family to graduate from college. Ojeda is a former university administrator, professor and small business development center director who now focuses on empowering students to succeed.

In addition, NLAC and the Dept. of Education would like to recognize Latino student leaders with the Gallery of Stars. School staff are encouraged to nominate 3 to 5 juniors or seniors who have shown strong leadership skills and goals for educational success. Students can be nominated by school staff members and their leadership may be in the classroom, community, and/or extracurricular activities, etc. Nomination forms can be found at <http://www.latinosummit.org/>

Students selected for the Gallery of Stars will have their biography and photograph featured on a displayed poster, a slideshow that will play during lunch, and will be included in a commemorative booklet handed out at the Summit. The students' photograph must be submitted with the Gallery of Stars nomination. A school portrait or a school appropriate photograph will be accepted. A high quality JPEG or TIFF at 300 dpi is preferable, and the image should not be too bright or dark.

High school seniors who are nominated for the Gallery of Stars can also apply for the Latino Summit Leadership Scholarship worth \$500. The scholarship is for tuition, student fees, or lodging at an accredited community college, college or university in Nebraska. This scholarship is open to all nominated high school seniors including citizens and non-citizens. Students must be Nebraska residents and have a GPA of 2.8 or higher on a 4.0 scale, or a 3.5 or higher on a 5.0 scale.

A school counselor, teacher or principal must submit one signed letter of recommendation on behalf of the student. Applications will not be accepted without the letter of recommendation.

In addition to the scholarship application and letter of recommendation, the student is requested to submit a statement of purpose and a leadership essay. Both the statement of purpose and essay must be limited to 500 words each, be typed on separate documents and need to include the students' name and school name at the top right corner of the page:

1. **Statement of Purpose:** Describe your educational goals. Response may include: Which college/university you plan to attend, and when. What you plan to study in college. Describe your future goals including career goals you may have and how you plan to attain them.
2. **Leadership Essay:** Describe why you consider yourself to be a leader. (This may or may not be school related) Response may include: What leadership experience you have. What have you learned about your individual strengths and weaknesses through your leadership experience?

The scholarship recipient will be announced and recognized at the Latino Summit.

Registration opens in August. The deadline to nominate a student for the Gallery of Stars and to apply for the Latino Summit Leadership Scholarship is October 7. Please send nominations to sherri.landis@nebraska.gov. The deadline to register to attend the Latino Summit is October 17. If you do not receive a confirmation by October 14, please contact Sherri at (402) 471-8306.

To register for the Summit, download and complete the registration form at: <http://www.latinosummit.org/> and submit by fax: (402) 476-7740 or email: michelle@nca.org.