

Chicano Federation of San Diego County, Inc



Newsletter

MAIN OFFICE - 1960 National Avenue, San Diego, CA 92113 (714) 236-1228
NORTH COUNTY OFFICE - 527 ELM ST. CARLSBAD (714) 729-7955

Volume VI

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November 1976

CHICANOS ASK:

WHERE IS THE FEDERATION GOING?



SERVICE AND ADVOCACY
SERVICE AND ADVOCACY

NAYADE CABRERA KEIGER

*A Report
To the People
from the Executive Director*



First of all I want to thank the persons from the Chicano community who trusted me enough to place my name along those recommended as Interim Director of the Chicano Federation. I want to thank the members of the Board of Directors who showed tremendous flexibility by continuing to support and help solve the problems of the organization, and I want to especially thank the Chicano Federation staff for their pleasant acceptance and supportive attitude.

Some persons have asked my motives for coming in at this time and accepting the interim position. To the best of my conscious knowledge these are the reasons: I saw and heard the newsmedia's reports on the problems of the Federation and I knew there was another side which was not being heard or reported by the media. I had worked here for nearly two years ('72-'74) outstationed by the Probation Department to establish a social service component, and I know some of the problems the people and the organization have had in the past

but we had always dealt with our problems internally and equitably. I did not like the one-sided publicity the Chicano community was receiving. I started coming to the Federation's headquarters after my regular working hours to listen and to help in whatever capacity I could. I did not anticipate becoming the interim director but when members of the Chicano community nominated me for the position and the Board of Directors ratified it I accepted. I had been working as Supervising Probation Officer of Hillcrest Receiving Home for one-and-a-half years. The Probation Department granted me a leave of absence without pay but with right to return anytime up to six months.

As I see and hear the people instrumental in the recent changes at the Chicano Federation, listen to the staff, read all the legally binding documents for which we and the Board of Directors are responsible, I have a general idea of the changes that need to take place.

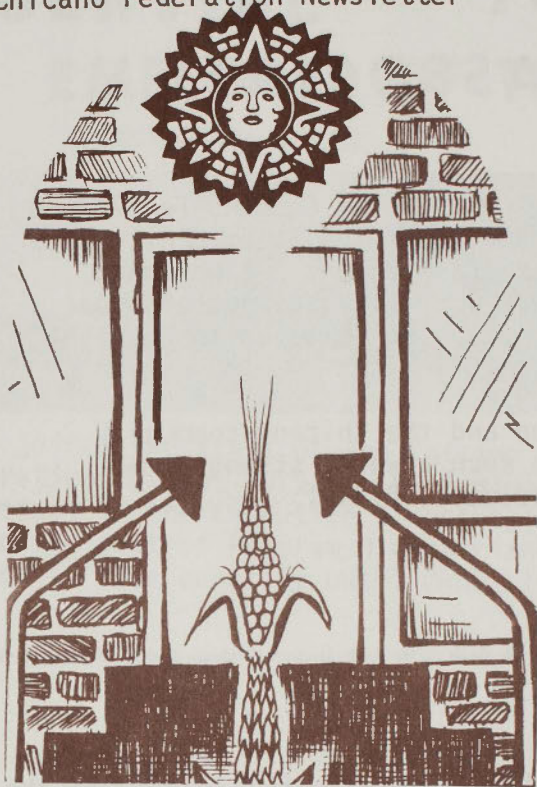
Continued page 4.



Newsletter Staff:

Translations...Ramon Gonzalez and George Valle
Typist..... Lorraine Staffiero and Eri Dorado
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ADVOCACY OR SOCIAL SERVICE?

WHAT IS THE DIRECTION OF THE CHICANO FEDERATION?

An editorial reply...
by Rafael Fernandez, Chairman, Executive Board

On September 15th, an editorial by Channel 39 questioned whether the Chicano Federation should seek to be a political organization or should dedicate itself to continuing its vital programs of direct social services to Spanish speaking citizens.

Actually, the Chicano Federation never has had to confront this dilemma. The Chicano Federation is not and never has been a political organization. By its own articles of incorporation and by-laws it cannot be political.

The Chicano Federation, which represents all the varied viewpoints within the Mexican-American community, has always had, and will continue to have, a deep and most vigorous commitment to direct social programs for our people. We are gratified by the support Channel 39 has so clearly voiced for the Chicano Federation's on-going commitment in this area of providing social services.

But the Chicano Federation does have another role that needs to be clearly understood, for which the Federation has an equally strong and irrevocable

commitment. This role is the role of advocate on behalf of the needs and aspirations of the people of Mexican and Latino heritage in our society. Advocacy means raising and clarifying issues; advocacy means speaking out for the rights of people to live in dignity, free from the heavy hand of lawless, arbitrary government action and irrational private bigotry; and advocacy means teaching others about the needs that exist in the Mexican-American community. In this sense, advocacy and the delivery of direct services march hand-in-hand. Advocacy is often the necessary precondition for acquiring and maintaining the material resources so essential to effective direct social service programs.

So the Chicano Federation must continue both its advocacy and service delivery activities. This is an obligation and a proud calling that we gladly follow.

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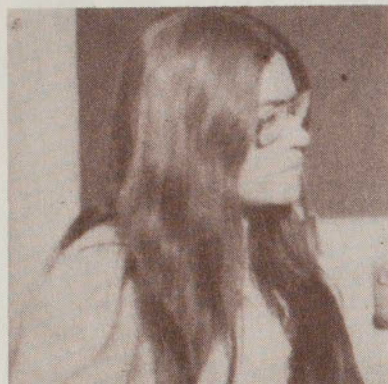
Broadcast over KCST-TV by Rafael Fernandez. 11:00 PM Thursday, September 30, 1976 7:25 AM, 12 noon and 5:00 PM Friday, October 1, 1976.

ADVOCACY

A NEW ASSOCIATE

DIANA FIERRO

Associate Director (Interim)



Diana Fierro, associated with the Chicano Federation since 1973, has now been appointed Interim Associate Director of the Chicano Federation. As her name (Fierro) suggests, this woman is made out of iron! She will stand up for what she believes to be right at whatever cost.

The Chicano Federation and the Chicano community are fortunate to have such a warm, strong woman in its leadership. Welcome, Diana!

Náyade Cabrera Keiger: A Report from the Interim Director.....
Continued from page two

The Chicano Federation's aims of attaining political power, economic development, acceptance by the middle and upper middle class Mexican-Americans, and respect from the majority community are all very fine goals but an organization that begins to cut itself from its grassroots and does not listen to the needs of its impoverished communities is like a tree that attains tremendous growth but the grounds on which it was planted no longer can sustain it. From the information I have gathered so far this was beginning to happen to the Chicano Federation.

The Federation started operating in its present location as the result of a grassroots Chicano community effort to make a park and a Community Center out of what was left after an unwanted Coronado Bay Bridge was planted in the midst of the barrio and a Highway Patrol building was being erected where the barrio wanted to make its park and its Community Center. Since that time the Federation has attained tremendous growth, with programs and affiliated agencies in most areas of the county.

During my stay at the Federation I will obtain grassroots community input into the workings of the organization.

I will disseminate information to the general community regarding all the legally binding documents, by-laws, contracts, articles of incorporation, lease agreement, responsibilities and limitations of the Chicano Federation as it is presently operating. I will facilitate orderly change of anything that needs to be changed in order to make the organization more responsive to community needs.

Meanwhile, we will continue our programs of advocacy and social services geared toward our minority group and the people who request our services with more representation from every barrio, Chicano organizations, and with input from organizations representing disenfranchised populations.

The Chicano Federation needs help and support from everyone of you in this endeavor.
Sincerely,

Náyade Cabrera Keiger

Náyade Cabrera Keiger
Executive Director (Interim)



SERVICE

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

JOSE BRAVO MORENO



José joined the staff of the Chicano Federation in May, 1975 as the Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director, moved up to the post of Program Director and served in this capacity until June, 1976.

Since then José has continued lending his expertise as the Planning and Program Coordinator for the Federation.

Scottsbluff, Nebraska's loss and our gain, José earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Recently Mr. Moreno further distinguished himself temporarily manning the post of Acting Executive Director of the Federation.

iCarrera!

BARRIO RUN

CHICANO PARK

Start to Finish: Dewey and National Avenue

Distance: 3 miles and 6 miles

Saturday December 4, 1976 at 9 AM

Sponsored by Van Camp Sea Food

Chicano Athletic Association: 474-1566



Reporte de la Directora Interina

En primer lugar extiendo mis gracias a las personas de la comunidad Chicana, quienes me demostraron suficiente confianza para someter mi nombre entre aquellos que fueron también recomendados para el puesto de Director Interino de la Federación Chicana. También doy mis gracias a la Mesa Directiva cuyos miembros demostraron tremenda flexibilidad al continuar su apoyo y ayuda para resolver los problemas de la organización, y especialmente repito mis sinceras gracias al personal de la Federación Chicana por su apoyo y colaboración tan laudables.

Algunas personas preguntaron cuales eran mis motivos al aceptar el puesto interino. Bajo mi conciencia estos son mis motivos: Me he dado cuenta de que las noticias referentes a los problemas de la Federación no presentaban ambos lados del asunto. Me di cuenta de que habria otro lado a la moneda. Por dos años ('72-'74) trabajé aquí (en la Federación) asignada por el Departamento de Probación (Probation Department) para establecer un componente de Servicios Sociales, y por esa razón adquirí el conocimiento de los problemas de la gente y la organización en el pasado, pero siempre resolvíamos esos problemas privadamente y equitativamente. No me gustaba el prejuicio en la publicidad que la comunidad Chicana recibía. Comencé viniendo a las oficinas de la Federación después de mis horas regulares de trabajo para enterarme y para asistir en lo que pudiera. No había anticipado ni había pensado en convertirme a ser Directora interina, pero cuando personas de la comunidad Chicana me nombraron para dicho puesto, y la Mesa Directiva lo ratificó, yo acepté. Había estado trabajando como Oficial Probatorio (Supervisora) por un año y medio. El Departamento Probatorio me otorgó ausencia sin remuneración por un período de seis meses con el derecho de volver a ocupar mi puesto dentro de ese tiempo.

Mientras veo y oigo a las personas que fueron instrumentales en los recientes cambios de la Federación Chicana, y atendiendo a las opiniones del personal, y después de leer los varios documentos legales por los cuales nosotros y la Mesa Directiva somos responsables,

he adquirido una idea de los cambios que tendremos que hacer.

Las metas de la Federación Chicana, de adquirir poder político, desarrollo económico, aceptación por la clase media-elevada de los Mexicano-Americanos, y el respeto de la mayoría de la comunidad, son unas metas muy dignas, pero una organización que empieza, y no atiende a las necesidades de sus comunidades empobrecidas, es igual que el árbol que ha crecido tremendamente, pero que la tierra en que fué sembrado ya no lo puede sostener. Por los informes que he reunido hasta ahora, esto es lo que ya empezaba a suceder con la Federación Chicana

La Federación comenzó a operar en el presente local debido al resultado de esfuerzos de la comunidad para tener un parque y centro social para la comunidad, en terreno abandonado después de haberse construido el poco deseado puente a Coronado precisamente en medio de lo que el barrio quería que fuera su parque y centro de la comunidad. Desde aquel tiempo la Federación ha crecido grandemente, con programas y agencias afiliadas en todo el condado.

Durante mi estancia con la Federación, obtendré la colaboración de la comunidad en las actividades de la organización. Diseminaré información a la comunidad en general concerniente a todos los documentos legales obligatorios, estatutos, contratos, artículos de incorporación, convenios sobre arriendos, y las responsabilidades y limitaciones de la Federación Chicana en cuanto a sus actuales actividades. Haré todos los cambios que fueran necesarios para mejorar el funcionamiento de la organización, en una forma gradual y ordenada, para que así sea más digna a la comunidad.

En el entretanto continuaremos con nuestros programas de abogacía, y servicios sociales diseñadas para nuestros grupos de la minoría, y las personas que soliciten nuestros servicios, para obtener mayor representación.

La Federación Chicana necesita la ayuda y apoyo de todos ustedes en este esfuerzo.

Sinceramente,

Rayade Cabrera Heiger
Directora Ejecutiva Interina





A THANKSGIVING MESSAGE FROM THE CHICANO FEDERATION

The Board of Directors and staff of the Chicano Federation would like to extend to you a very special wish for a peaceful, harmonious Thanksgiving day, full of closeness and family happiness.

Traditionally Thanksgiving has been a day to get together with our families to renew old ties. Unfortunately our extended families are rapidly vanishing. In our highly technological society the search for material goods has not helped our "familias" to stay together. The price of success often spells alienation from one another. Our search for higher education and for attaining the majority society's version of "success" often means discarding some of our most precious cultural strengths, like our extended families.

The above, however, does not only happen in our immediate families. Those of us who are "lucky" enough, resourceful enough to obtain a college education or a high paying job, often pay the price of losing our original identity. We all have an obligation and a responsibility to encourage our talented and skilled Chicanos to serve as resources for our struggling community. To some degree we all face the racial and economic discrimination of this society and although a few of us may share some of the wealth of this country we must remember that as long as we remain discriminated against as a group, none of us is really free.

In the same manner that we need our immediate families, we need one another to work for positive social change. All of us: Chicanos, Mexican-Americans, Latinos, Hispanos or whatever name we wish to use to express our identity - let's think of one another as each other's extended family. Remember that "en la unión está la fuerza y en la fuerza el triunfo".

i Muchas Gracias!

La Paz victims of hurricane LIZ can thank the Chicano Park Steering Committee for the tremendous amount of work packing and transporting two truckloads of clothing and food sent to La Paz via PSA. MECHA students, thank you for replenishing the barrio's emergency clothing room.

The Chicano Federation salutes the efforts of all of you that donated your time and effort in registering Chicanos to vote in the November 2nd election. Hats off, especially, to the Voter Registration Project and the Ad Hoc Committee on Chicano Rights for a job well done.

Our thanks to TEZOMOC, better known as Mr. Dan Munoz, Editor, for its enlightening comments on the direction the Chicano Federation is taking.

Our kids, young and old, thank Victor Ochoa, David Rico and the MECHA students for a delightfully frightening Halloween party.

We would especially like to thank Mr. Roberto Tato for his dedication towards the employment services of our CHAMBA Program and all the time he is donating towards its endeavors.

Graduate Fellowships Program
Announcement 1977-1978

With the support of the Ford Foundation, Educational Testing Service is awarding a limited number of graduate fellowships to Mexican-Americans who intend to pursue a career in higher education. Applications must be requested by individual applicants. No applications will be distributed after Dec. 23, 1976. When requesting an application form, please indicate your field of study, and the status you will have reached by June 30, 1977.

Graduate Fellowships for Mexican Americans and Native Americans
Educational Testing Service
Box 200
Berkeley, California 94704



North County Chicano Federation

OPEN HOUSE

527 Elm Street, Carlsbad, CA
Nov. 19 Friday 12:00 to 2:00 pm
Everyone Welcome



Due to increases in publishing costs, and in order to maintain the quality of the Newsletter, we will have to ask you for a \$4.00 annual donation which is effective January 1, 1977. If you are interested in receiving future issues of the Newsletter please make checks or money orders payable to : The Chicano Federation, Inc.

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