



P.O. Box 9236  
Santa Fe, NM 87504-9236

# La Voz de MANA del Norte Newsletter

A Grassroots, Nonprofit, Volunteer Hispanic  
Women's Organization In Northern  
New Mexico November/December 2002

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

On behalf of the MANA del Norte Board, I would like to extend our gratitude to all of you who have worked so hard to make 2002 a successful year. With your support, we were able to realize and complete several key projects and events.

We began our year in early January with a special showing of "The American Family" video at the Wild Oats Community Center in Santa Fe. This meeting was the official kick-off for the Hermanitas "Family Album Project," which entailed a partnership with PBS and our National MANA office.

In February, we had our Annual Membership Luncheon at Flavio's Café in Espanola. A special thanks to the Luncheon Committee (Becky Trujillo, Beverly Ramsey, Mable Amador, Jeanette Salazar and Carmen M. Rodriguez) for their hard work. Dr. Isabelle Sandoval was our keynote speaker, and spoke about Mujeres de Oro del Norte. She ended her presentation with a poem that was published in La Herencia, entitled "Rosa de Castilla", dedicated to the women of northern New Mexico. Dr. Sandoval wrote this poem in Spanish and dedicated it to our forgotten abuelitas and tias.

During our luncheon meeting, the membership discussed and ratified our updated Bylaws.

By March, our Hermanitas® Project was in full swing. Thanks to all the preliminary work done by Shelley Valencia and our Hermanitas Coordinator, Chelo Rojas, 25 girls are now registered in the program. Under the direction of Barbara Salazar, the girls were meeting once a week at the Española Middle School and preparing for the Hermanitas Summer Institute in Washington D.C. Chelo Rojas and I attended the National MANA Retreat, which was held in Albuquerque in mid-March.

In April, our National office approved our official MANA del Norte website. Antonette Chacon did a fantastic job in creating the site. Please take the time and visit the site at [http://www.geocities.com/mana\\_del\\_norte/index.html](http://www.geocities.com/mana_del_norte/index.html). Our Hermanitas were also busy in April. They attended the Colonel Kickbush Leadership Training Workshop, which was a nationally sponsored event.

The Cinco de Mayo Scholarship Fundraiser was held on May 2, 2002, and was a success due to the hard work of the Scholarship Fundraiser

Committee (Loretta Fresquez, Debbie Martinez, Theresa Sandlin, and Carmen M. Rodriguez). By late May, the Scholarship Committee, chaired by our Vice President for Membership, Terry Ortega, and her Committee (Shelley Valencia, Becky Trujillo, Mona Wecksung, and Caroline Jaramillo-Crone) were hard at work distributing scholarship applications and beginning the process of evaluating returning applications.

We celebrated halfway through the year with our Hispanic Cultural Event and Picnic in mid July. We honored our past officers and a few of our many valuable volunteers: Geri Jaramillo, President, Becky Trujillo, Vice President, Terry Ortega, Vice president for Membership, Debbie Martinez, Treasurer, and Loretta Fresquez, Secretary. The volunteers who received awards were: Mona Wecksung, Isabel Cummings, and Theresa Sandlin. By the end of July, Chelo Rojas, Barbara Salazar and Gloria Romero were leading the Hermanitas to Washington, D.C. for the Hermanitas Summer Institute.

In August, Tina Salazar-Langley, our Vice President for Membership resigned her position on the board. We are sorry to see her go, but we are also very thankful for all her hard work, especially her work with the MANA del Norte Policies and procedures Handbook. We wish Tina the very best with her new endeavors. Thank you, Tina.

In September, I attended the MANA National Meeting in Washington, D.C., and by early October, Theresa Sandlin, Mona Wecksung, Jewel Cabeza de Vaca, Carmen M. Rodriguez, Isabel Cummings, Terry Ortega, and I were

working on last minute details for our Thirteenth Annual National Hispanic Heritage Month Scholarship Banquet. A special thanks goes to Camille Bustamante, our Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening and to Gloria Tristani, our keynote speaker. It was a grand success. Fourteen scholarship recipients were acknowledged and honored that evening.

In October, we received a \$5,000 donation from the Astraea Lesbian Action Foundation/Loving Lesbians Fund to be used toward our scholarship fund. Thank you for this donation.

We are currently planning our Holiday Pot-Luck Social. It will be held at the Wild Oats Community Room, on December 14, 2002, from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. This community room is located at 1090 S. St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe. Plan to come and join the fun and celebration of a successful year.

Thank you all for your continued support. Dr. Sandra Rodriguez

### MANA DEL NORTE HOLIDAY POTLUCK SOCIAL

The Board of MANA del Norte cordially invites all Members, Friends, Hermanitas, and your families, to celebrate the holidays at our Holiday Potluck Social. It will be held at the Wild Oats Community Room on December 14, 2002, from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. It is located at 1090 S. St. Francis Drive in Santa Fe. **Please bring a small gift for our “white elephant” gift exchange.**

Additionally, a lucky person will be able to win a **door prize** at this Potluck

Social. It will be a **free** night at the Hilton Hotel in Santa Fe. Please plan to attend the Holiday Social on Saturday, December 14, 2002.

MANA del Norte is also asking each of you to bring gifts of non-perishable foods and other items that will be donated to the San Martin de Porres Society, which operates under the auspices of San Ysidro Catholic Church in Santa Fe. The San Martin de Porres Society meets every other Tuesday of the month and assists the needy and poor, in Santa Fe and the surrounding communities, with rent and utility bills, with food, and during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, provides food baskets to several needy families in the Santa Fe area. San Martin de Porres does its own fund raising by holding bake sales and yard sales throughout the year, and it also collects food and other donations continuously throughout the year.

San Martin de Porres was born in Lima, Peru, in 1579. He was a Dominican lay brother at Rosary Convent in Lima. He spent his life caring for the sick and feeding the poor. His holiness and penances caused him to be venerated by all those he came in contact with. He was canonized in 1962 by Pope John XXIII, and is the patron saint of interracial justice.

**MANA DEL NORTE'S NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

On October 11, 2002, MANA del Norte honored its 14 scholarship recipients for the 2002-2003 academic year (see related story on 13<sup>th</sup> Annual National Hispanic Heritage Scholarship Awards

Banquet). This year we received scholarship applications from 32 dynamic women throughout northern New Mexico, all of whom were deserving of this award. Unfortunately, we were able to award only 14 scholarships. The good news, however, is that this year we were able to raise our scholarship award from \$500 to \$750, thanks to the support of numerous individuals, businesses, and corporate sponsors in our communities. We are grateful for their contributions and look forward to their support in the future.

**MANA del Norte's 2002-2003 scholarship recipients are:**

Martha B. Baca, Santa Fe Community College, Business Administration

Lalleh Dayeny, Santa Fe Community College, Political Science

Edna A. Esquibel, Santa Fe Community College, Nursing

Brenda C. Martinez, Northern New Mexico Community College, Nursing

Jennifer M. Martinez, New Mexico State University, Psychology

Lisa M. Montoya, University of New Mexico, Emergency Medicine (Paramedic)

Melissa Montoya, New Mexico Highlands University, Public Affairs, (Master's Degree)

Isela Prado, New Mexico Highlands University, Elementary Education

Antionette Romero, Northern New Mexico Community College, Nursing

Brenda Solano, Santa Fe Community College, Nursing

Martina Suazo, Adams State College, Pre-Med/Forensic Pathology

Yvette M. Tafoya, Technical Vocational Institute, Alb., Court Reporting

Erica Rita Velarde, Northern New Mexico Community College, Business Administration

Angelamaria Vigil, New Mexico Highlands University, Management Information Systems

**CONGRATULATIONS** to our scholarship recipients and to all our scholarship applicants!!

MANA del Norte will begin its 2003-2004 scholarship application process in March or April 2003. As noted above, this year we were able to award \$750 scholarships, and we hope to award in that same amount next year. This year we also made a significant change to our scholarship application criteria: although applicants must be residents of northern New Mexico, they can be enrolled at any secondary school in the country. In the past, enrollment was limited to schools in New Mexico.

For 2003, the Board has made another significant change to our scholarship criteria. Historically, neither MANA del Norte members nor members of their immediate family were allowed to apply for a scholarship. In 2003, with the exception of MANA del Norte Board members and Scholarship Award Committee members, and members of their immediate family (mother,

daughter, sister), **ANY** MANA del Norte member will have the opportunity to apply for a scholarship. Please help spread the word regarding this significant change in our scholarship application criteria.

### **HERMANITAS GRANT ACTIVITIES**

The activities of the Hermanitas program at MANA del Norte has been driven by a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) at the Department of Health and Human Services since April of 2001. We are one of six MANA chapters around the country participating in this three-year funded grant at a total of \$930,000.

The purpose of the program is to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in health by helping to improve ethnic minority groups' access to substance abuse prevention/treatment and mental health services.

The MANA affiliates are in an excellent position to accomplish this goal because our Hermanitas programs have been in existence for many years mentoring young Latinas in education, leadership and success. Our program is relevant and meaningful to the goals of the grant because the girls are age-appropriate for the context of these issues, we are community based and we emphasize our Latino culture. We are able to directly reach young Latinas in our communities and guide them toward becoming healthy, happy and productive community members.

The group of MANA del Norte Hermanitas consists of 25 girls from the Espanola Valley. It is a challenging

endeavor. Federal grants with such generous funding are carefully monitored and evaluated and the guidelines are strict. Consistent participation by the Hermanitas is critical and is tracked by extensive self-evaluations completed once a year for three years, academic status reports, and individual progress reports. The curriculum requires that they meet for a certain number of hours a week, once a month for a more lengthy seminar, and once a year for the National Institute where the Hermanitas convene in Washington DC. The main issues addressed are education, social skills training, mentoring and leadership. Some of the specific topics covered include risky behaviors, self-esteem, decision-making, goal setting, community service, career choices, conflict resolution, communication skills, building supportive relationships, peer mentoring, values and of course cultural pride.

Volunteers who have assisted with the program at MANA del Norte have been Shelley Valencia, Chelo Rojas and Sandra Rodriguez. Barbara Salazar from Espanola was hired this year to help carry out most of the specific requirements of this ambitious program among other things. You may contact Barbara at (505) 852-0074 if you're interested in helping or to learn more about the program.

### **MANA DEL NORTE BY-LAWS AND POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

MANA del Norte's By-laws have been updated and revised. The updated and revised By-laws better reflect how MANA del Norte currently operates. These By-laws were approved at our

February 2002 annual membership luncheon and meeting. Also, a new MANA del Norte Policies and Procedures Handbook is currently under development, thanks to the commitment and hard work of Tina Salazar-Langley, which will provide subsequent administrations the documented information necessary to operate the organization in a consistent manner. The By-laws and Policies and Procedures Handbook will eventually be posted on MANA del Norte's website for the membership to view.

### **13TH ANNUAL NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET**

MANA del Norte's 13th Annual National Hispanic Heritage Month Scholarship Banquet, which was held on Friday, October 11, 2002, was a complete success. **Gloria Tristani**, our Keynote Speaker, spoke eloquently about the importance of education, of keeping our Spanish language alive, and of assisting other Latinas in our communities. Thank you Gloria. In addition to their scholarship award, our scholarship recipients received a beautiful candle made by Regalos de Abiquiu, along with a MANA del Norte poster. They were also honored with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Secretary of State, which were presented by Lucia Lopez, representing Rebecca Vigil-Giron, Secretary of State.

### **A BIG THANK YOU to the following sponsors for making our Scholarship event a success:**

Los Alamos National Bank, Adelante Consulting, Inc., the Santa Fe New Mexican, American Association of University Women, Los Alamos Branch,

LANL Foundation, Regalos de Abiquiu, Hinkle, Hensley, Shanor & Martin, L.L.P., Los Alamos Medical Center, Coca Cola Bottling Company, and many other individuals. With your continued support, we will be able to continue making a difference to northern New Mexico women. Thank you so much.

### **MADRINA AWARDS**

MANA del Norte honors northern New Mexico Latinas who are over 60 years old and have opened doors for other Latinas. This year, we honored two Latinas at our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet. They are Luz Trujillo and Connie S. Valencia. The following are shorts bios on these wonderful women.

#### **Luz Trujillo, 2002 Madrina Awardee**

Luz Trujillo has opened many doors for many Latinas, especially in Education. Luz was born and raised in Belen, New Mexico, where she attended school. After high school, Luz attended the University of New Mexico, in Albuquerque. She then got married, and went with her husband to Costa Rica, where her daughter was born. Shortly after that, Luz and her family moved to Espanola, and she received her Degree in Education. Shortly after that, the family moved to Caracas, Venezuela. While in Venezuela, Luz taught shorthand in a school for American children. They also lived in Bolivia, Spain.

After their trip abroad, Luz and her family returned to Espanola, where she taught Business Education for many years at the Espanola High School. Luz was a big influence to many students, and one way you can tell this, is because whenever people are with and

around her, she is always stopped and is greeted by 1 or more persons. They always tell her that she was their teacher and they still remember what a wonderful teacher she was.

Luz has been, and is still a member of the Espanola Women's Club, the Yucca Extension Club, the Retired Teachers Organization, and a board member of the Let's Read Program. Luz is also a member of the Espanola Lions Club, where she served as the First Latina President. Luz is also a member of MANA del Norte, and hosted a dinner reception at her home for Lillian Roybal Rose several years ago, when Roybal-Rose was in Espanola teaching a Cross Cultural Communications Workshop for the Northern New Mexico communities. Several years ago, Luz received the Espanola Chamber of Commerce "Woman of the Year" Award for all her endeavors within the community.

Luz has had several private students that she has taught to read and write English. In fact, Luz has taken upon herself to teach many local women how to read and write in English.

Luz is a very gracious lady, in every way. She makes everyone feel like she/he is the most important person around when you are with her. Luz is the best hostess when you are invited to her home. She sets the best of her dishes and always uses cloth napkins and matching dishes. She always encourages everyone to do the best that they can.

**Connie S. Valencia- 2002 Madrina Awardee**

Connie was born in Galisteo, New Mexico, to Frank and Lucia Sandoval, on December 14, 1931. She married Miguel E. Valencia in 1949. Connie and Miguel brought four children into the world: Terry, Michaela and Michael, and Tom, all of whom still reside in Santa Fe. Terry and Michaela, both MANA del Norte members, have obtained college degrees, and her sons, Michael and Tom have been successful in their chosen careers. Connie has six grandchildren, five boys and one girl, and five of them are currently enrolled in college--one of them in Medical School.

Connie is a loving, caring, and giving mother and grandmother, who has always been there for her children and grandchildren in countless ways. Connie lost her husband in 1990, and, thereafter, in order to deal with her husband's death and to rebuild her life as a single woman, Connie began working with the Foster Grandparent Program through the City of Santa Fe Senior Services Program. Since June 1997, she has provided mentoring, tutoring, and interpretation to 6 - 7 year old children at Sweeney Elementary School in Santa Fe. Connie goes into the classroom every morning and pairs up with 2 - 3 children, who are either exceptional, special needs children, who have been abused or neglected, have low self-esteem, learning disabilities, and/or children whose primary language is Spanish. She is making a considerable contribution to the future of these children.

As a Foster Grandparent, Connie has also participated in inter-generational

spelling B's, where she is teamed up with a student and competes in English and Spanish. Connie won first place at the State competition two years ago, and placed last year. In addition to working with the Foster Grandparent Program, Connie also works afternoons at the Senior Center on Alto Street in Santa Fe. At the Senior Center, Connie works as a Database Clerk, and is responsible for entering enrollment forms into the Senior Assessment Management System. Of the 5,056 seniors enrolled to receive services in Santa Fe County, Connie has succeeded in entering 80% of those. This feat, coming from a person who at the age of 68 feared computers, yet she learned how to data enter enrollments, assessments for in-home and meals on wheels services, and units of service. Her supervisor describes Connie as being extremely dependable, a quick learner, takes her work seriously, and is very supportive of the seniors she comes in contact with, as well as with all the staff she works with. Furthermore, her supervisor says that Connie is always willing to go above and beyond her expected duties, and she could not run her office as efficiently if Connie were not there to assist her.

After working mornings with young children at Sweeney Elementary School, Connie continues to touch people's lives by working with men and women who are now enjoying the benefits of being called "Seniors." It takes a very special person to be able to work with such diverse groups of people.

## **EMAIL ADDRESSES**

If you have an email address, please let Terry Ortega, MANA del Norte Vice President for Membership, know about your email address. Terry has compiled a list of members' email addresses. Only the board has access to this list. We will use this list in place of a phone tree. Please email Terry your address so you may be included on this list. Send both your home and work email addresses, and indicate the address you prefer us to use. If you do not have an email address, no problem, we can still phone or mail you. MANA del Norte would like to see how many members are available through email so we can distribute "breaking news" to you immediately. Please call or email Terry Ortega at 473-4733 (home), [tmortega51@hotmail.com](mailto:tmortega51@hotmail.com), with your email address.

## **FOR YOUR CALENDAR:**

**November 16, 2002** – Hermanitas Program Monthly meeting in Espanola. Please contact Sandra Rodriguez at 473-6130 or Barbara Salazar at 852-0074 for more information.

**December 3, 2002** – MANA del Norte Board meeting and General Meeting at the College of Santa Fe Folgers Library, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Everyone is invited.

**December 14, 2002** – MANA del Norte Holiday Potluck Social, 1-3 p.m. at the Wild Oats Community Room in Santa Fe. Everyone is invited. Please bring a gift for exchange and non-perishable items for special families.

**January 7, 2003** – MANA del Norte Board meeting and General Meeting, College of Santa Fe Folgers Library, 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Everyone is invited.

## **FROM THE EDITOR OF "LA VOZ DE MANA DEL NORTE"**

Dear MANA del Norte Members and Friends: Please accept my apology for not sending you a newsletter earlier these past few months. As you can see, we have been very busy keeping MANA del Norte active. **We could sure use your help.** If you know of anyone who is interested in helping to write and/or edit "La Voz de MANA del Norte", please contact Carmen M. Rodriguez, and she can tell you all about it. Garcias. Carmen

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING EVERYONE.  
WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY  
PEACEFUL AND ENJOYABLE  
WEEKEND.**

We hope you have enjoyed this edition of La Voz de MANA del Norte. We want to hear from you. We invite and encourage you to share your comments, ideas, articles for publication, and questions. Consider this newsletter a forum for an exchange of information. We want you to participate. Please feel free to contact Carmen M. Rodriguez, Editor of La Voz de MANA del Norte, (505-662-7044) when you want to include articles or share some news with the membership. Remember that this is a joint effort.

MANA del Norte, a Hispanic women's organization in Northern New Mexico was established on February 4, 1989, dedicated to strengthening the role of Hispanic women in our society. We serve as a voice and resource for Hispanic women in Northern New Mexico. We seek to express the concerns and interests of this valuable group by participating in the decision-making process. Through its effective involvement in a variety of issues and its national grassroots network, the MANA del Norte organization achieves its objectives. All interested persons are invited to become members of MANA del Norte. Our organization is open to the public and encourages all people to attend meetings and functions sponsored by MANA del Norte.

MANA del Norte supports programs and legislative initiatives fostering equality, including fair policies on economic equity, health, welfare, education, and civil rights. MANA del Norte is involved with Networking Leadership Training, Referrals, Scholarships, and other issues. We strongly encourage you and your friends to join MANA del Norte. As a member, you will be entitled to attend meetings, voice your concerns on issues discussed, receive a monthly newsletter filled with information, vote on all the issues we are involved in, and receive a variety of free books to share with family and friends. As a Friend of MANA del Norte, you will be entitled to receive this monthly newsletter, receive books, and attend the meetings.

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Day/Month only)  
 Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the following:

Membership Dues, \$25.00 payable to MANA del Norte \_\_\_\_\_  
 Friend Dues, \$15.00 payable to MANA del Norte \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hermanitas Dues, \$5.00, payable to MANA del Norte \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail your application and check to the following address:  
 MANA del Norte, P. O. Box 9236, Santa Fe, NM. 87504-9236.**

**MANA del Norte accepts monetary or in-kind donations; we are a Section 501(C) 3 nonprofit organization.**

If you want to talk with someone about membership or other related issues regarding MANA del Norte, please call Terry Ortega, VP for Membership, or any other board member whose names are listed below.

<b>President</b>	<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>VP for Membership</b>	<b>Web Designer</b>
Sandra Rodriguez P.O. Box 5906 Santa Fe, NM 87502 438-2988	UNFILLED AT THIS TIME	Chelo Rojas P.O. Box 8946 Santa Fe, NM 87504	Carmen M. Rodriguez 967 Tsankawi Street Los Alamos, NM 87544 662-7044	Terry Ortega 1299 Zepol Rd.#102 Santa Fe, NM. 87505 473-4733	Antonette Chacon P.O. Box 112 Gallina, NM 87107 638-1082