



La Ola

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Association of Naval Services Officers
P.O. Box 150652, Alexandria, VA 22315
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Message from the National President

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Message from the National President
- 1 Department of the Navy Objectives for FY-08 and Beyond
- 2 Strength in Diversity
- 2 2008 ANSO Symposium
- 3 2008 ANSO Symposium cont.
- 4 Hispanic Matters
- 5 From the Membership...
- 5 In Memoriam: Emily Perez Treatment Facility
- 6 Congratulations / Felicitaciones
- 7 Professional Development
- 7 National Membership Chair

Feliz Navidad! As our Symposium plans continue to come together smoothly (thanks to the leadership of LCDR Venzor), I'd like to remind you to begin making plans and reservations for our upcoming Professional Development and Training Symposium in Little Creek, VA 28 April-2 May.

The agenda can be found on our Website at <http://www.ansomil.org/>. We keep it updated constantly, so if you're looking to find the most current schedule of events, please check the website often. We already have confirmations from CNO, CNP, MCPON, Surgeon General, MCPOCG, and many others.

From the sounds of the numerous phone calls we've received, we're expecting over 200 people to attend; so I urge you to get authorization to attend and reserve your base lodging and Symposium seat soon. It will be "first come, first served." Look for more reservation and Symposium info inside your newsletter.

This is the season for giving thanks and I'd like to thank our enthusiastic Board of Directors for all they've done this year. In spite of losing several Board members to IA duty, we've increased our outreach exponentially and have endorsed several NROTC candidates.

We're making progress, but still have miles to go.... We wish LCDR Mark Venzor, LTMike Files, and 1st Lt Amber Coleman well as they prepare to head out for their IA duty in a few short days. We also wish LCDR Galo Chavez well as he completes his IA over the next few months. Hopefully, we'll see him at the Symposium!!

Please have a safe and enjoyable holiday with your family and friends. See you soon!

Department of the Navy Objectives for FY-08 and Beyond

On October 9, 2007, the Secretary of the Navy, Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Signed the Department of the Navy Objectives for FY 2008 and Beyond. These Objectives focus on key efforts that will provide real benefits to the Nation in the fulfillment of our responsibilities to maintain a capable Navy and Marine Corps. These Objectives will ultimately improve the lives of Sailors and Marines which will result in greater security for the United States. Click here to learn more about these important [Objectives](#).

Strength in Diversity

“Until officer corps catches up to enlisted ranks, military won’t be truly integrated” Rep. Kendrick B. Meek (D-FL)

ANSO Mission

To assist officer recruitment and retention efforts in the Hispanic Community; support and nurture our junior enlisted personnel desiring to apply for Officer programs; and foster the professional growth and development of Hispanic Sea Services personnel through mentoring, networking, training, and educational programs.

Since the integration of our military 58 years ago, and particularly following the establishment of the all-volunteer force, the U.S. military remains the greatest equalizing institution in our country. The truest melting pot in our society exists aboard aircraft carriers, in barracks and on bases. Mess halls and exchange services stores, shooting ranges and training facilities are portraits of diversity.

However, in the officer's clubs, a different picture emerges. The diversity reflected within the enlisted ranks is lacking in the officer corps - particularly the senior officer corps.

According to data provided by the Department of Defense, minorities are overrepresented in the enlisted ranks and underrepresented in the officer ranks. Among the military nearly 1.4 million active-duty personnel, roughly 38 percent are minorities and nearly 20 percent are African-American.

Please click here for more information on [Underrepresentation of Minorities in the Officer Corps](#).

2008 ANSO Symposium

The 28th Annual Association of Naval Services Officers professional Development & Training Symposium will take place from April 28, 2008 – May 3, 2008. The 28th Annual Symposium’s theme is Hispanic Americans: Making a Positive impact on American Society. The Symposium will be held at the Drexler Conference Center onboard the Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek in Virginia Beach, VA.

Registration for the 2008 Symposium will begin in Mid-January so please visit our website at www.ansomil.org. Travel days for the Symposium are the April 28 and May 2. Lodging information is available on the Symposium webpage.

The following workshops were designed to provide our attendees with a fair balance of professional, military, and culture information and development opportunities. The highlight of the Symposium will be the opportunity for our attendees to receive a 15-minute mentorship session from a Senior Officer or Senior Enlisted. All attendees signing up for a mentorship session are reminded to bring a copy of their service record with them.

Symposium Workshops:

Youth Day - Tuesday, April 29, 2007

- **Chapter Training** - The purpose of this workshop is to train Chapter Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and Chapter Start-up Action Officers on the following topics: Chapter Start-Up procedures, Keys to a Successful Chapter (Triad of Professional Development, Familia, and Community Outreach) and the opportunity to discuss lessons learned and best practices.
- **Youth Day Activities** - Youth Day provides the opportunity for up to 150 of our symposium attendees to interact as role-models to 150 local NJROTC Students. Our Symposium Attendees will escort and mentor the students through various ship tours, static displays, and motivational speaker presentation.

Leadership Day - Wednesday, April 30, 2007

- **ANSO Regional Meetings** - This breakout session is designed to provide a venue for Regional VPs and Chapter President to inform attendees of regional initiatives and chapter events.
- **The Art of Networking (TBD)** - Expand your professional toolbox by attending this workshop whose purpose is to present innovative techniques in networking.

Leadership – Excellence - Dedication

2008 ANSO Symposium cont.

- **Mendez vs. Westminster Workshop** - The purpose of this workshop is to inform the audience of the significant historical implications this case had on Latinos throughout the Southwest. Mendez vs. Westminster Case was the first case that desegregated schools in the United States of American.
- **Global Operations Brief** - These workshops will provide an opportunity for each Sea Service to present our attendees with the new maritime strategy, status of current forces and their engagement in national and world affairs.
- **Senior Enlisted Advisory Panel** - These workshop provides the opportunity for the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, and the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard to provide their perspective on matters affecting both enlisted and officers in the sea services.
- **Officer Accession Programs With Senior Enlisted Mentoring** - Each Sea Service will be provided with the opportunity to present and inform our members on enlisted to officer accession programs. This workshop will provide the basis and venue to openly discuss career options with professionals in their prospective officer accession programs through the moderation from our Senior Enlisted.
- **Reception in Honor of our Enlisted Members** - This reception is in honor of our Enlisted Members who are the core of the sea services. The reception is hosted by ANSO's Senior Enlisted Advisors.

Excellence Day - Thursday, May 1, 2007

- **DOD Diversity Breakfast (TBD)** - The breakfast purpose is to provide our members with the opportunity to share a morning of discussion and friendship prior to beginning a day that will expand our comprehension of what is diversity
- **Diversity Presentation (TBD)** - Dr. Betances, has been invited to conduct a diversity workshop.
- **Corporate Diversity Panel: Best Practices from Corporate America** - The focus of this panel is to introduce Sea Service Members and its leadership of what corporate American is doing to reach out the Latino Community. Diversity has become a business imperative for corporate, government and military entities.
- **Service Break-Outs: Diversity Outreach Initiatives and Challenges** - The purpose of this panel is to introduce Sea Service Members to the Diversity initiatives that each Sea Service is currently engaged in within the Hispanic Community and to address current and future initiatives that support the MOUs between the Sea Services and ANSO.
- **What is Latino Series: Assimilation vs. Acculturation** - The focus of this workshop is to allow each panelist to provide a short presentation on what Assimilation and Acculturation mean to the Latino Community. This series is an effort to continue to educate our membership on the many issues that the Latino community deal with on a daily lives.

Dedication Day - Friday, May 2, 2007

- **Navy's Surgeon General Workshop** - The Surgeon General will provide our attendees with an insight of the key roles the medical community plays in brining our service members' home safely from OIF/OEF and highlight the professional opportunities available to Hispanics within the medical community.
- **Senior Hispanic Officer Panel** - What does it take to make your Sea Service Career a success? With over 100 years of experience our panelist will provide attendees with personal experiences and advice to have a successful career in today's Sea Services.
- **Career Development & Milestones - Promotion Boards: What are they looking for?** Learn how you can help yourself become more competitive for promotions and selection boards?

Hispanic Matters

Inside the Hispanic vote: Growing in numbers, growing in diversity

As Democratic and Republican presidential candidates scour the country for votes during the 2008 campaign, they'll inevitably court the Hispanic community, a voting group growing rapidly in number and diversity.

The Hispanic vote is neither homogenous nor loyal to one party. Though the current political moment seems to favor the Democratic Party, experts say that affinity should not be taken for granted.

The Hispanic community is the fastest-growing minority group in the United States, according to the U.S. census.

But its percentage of the electorate is lower than its numbers as a whole because of lower citizenship rates, less voter participation and a youthful demographic. Of the nation's more than 44 million people of Hispanic origin, about a third are too young to vote.

Click here to learn more about the [Hispanic vote](#).

Hispanic surnames joining majority

by Mr. Robert Smith, Plain Dealer Reporter, 28 Nov 07

Garcia, Rodriguez join Smith, Miller among top U.S. surnames. Congratulations Garcia and Rodriguez. Welcome to the club. Beware. It's crowded at the top.

We in the Top 10 of the most common surnames in America - a list that recently welcomed its first Hispanic members - seldom make a dinner reservation in our real names, lest we arrive to find other Smiths at the table.

Honesty in actions as simple as introducing yourself, ordering a pizza, or signing a hotel registry can cause eyebrows to arch in suspicion. But if a surname signifies numbers in America, you and other Latinos have made a lasting mark.

Two non-Anglo surnames - Garcia and Rodriguez - now stand among the nation's 10 most common surnames, probably for the first time in history, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The bureau analyzed data from the 2000 Census to produce a report that indicates American surnames are changing to reflect changing demographics. America's Hispanic community grew by about 58 percent in the 1990s, to become about 13 percent of the population. In that span, Garcia became the eighth most popular surname, up from No. 18, and Rodriguez leaped to No. 9 from No. 22 in 1990.

Lee took 22nd place in the latest surname count, indicating the rise of Asian-Americans. But with Hernandez at No. 15 and Lopez at No. 21, it's clear that Latino families have become bedrock in the nation's foundation.

And they're not done yet. Martinez nearly edged out Wilson for 10th place. That's prideful news to Ana Garcia, a local singer who held fast to her maiden name and to her mother's language. "Oh, how cool," said Garcia, upon learning that her last name is the eighth most popular in America.

ANSO Vision

We are a professional organization, the acknowledged leader in recruiting, developing, and retaining high-quality Hispanics in the Sea Services, continuously harnessing the strength of a diverse workforce to optimize readiness in defense of our nation, and to positively influence the Hispanic Community.

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From the Membership...

Latin American Association Feeds 180 at a Soup Kitchen in Catania

by RP1(SW/AW/FMF) Rafael P. Barney

On Saturday, December 7, 2007, several members of the Latin American Association (LAA) took a trip to Catania's Missione Della Carita (Mission of Charity), which is run by the Sisters of Maria Calcuta. The 10 volunteers arrived at the soup kitchen at 1000 to start preparing dinner for the estimated 130 less fortunate attendees. Additionally, 50 prepackaged meals were prepared for those in need on the go. The dinner was a typical dish of Hispanic/Latin decent. The first course was Rice with Chicken (arroz con pollo) mixed with veggies followed by the second course, a potato salad with a chicken pattie (Empanada) on the side. The food was all donated by the LAA. Dinner was served after a prayer at 1730 after which the majority of attendees asked for seconds and the recipe.

"It's a lot of work but when I think of it, I'd rather be here doing this for those in need than staying at home watching movies", said EN2 Evelyn Padin. The sisters of the mission were filled with joy to see the faces of those fed, as they all loved the unique meal. The evening concluded at 1830 with some cleaning and reorganizing.

In Memoriam

Emily Perez Treatment Facility



On November 20, 2007, the newly dedicated Emily Perez Treatment facility was dedicated in honor of 2nd LT Emily Perez, a platoon leader who died when an improvised explosive device hit her convoy on September 12, 2006. 2nd LT Perez, was West Point's first female minority Brigade Command Sergeant Major and was the school's first female casualty in the Global War on Terrorism. Please click here for more information about [Emily Perez and the Treatment facility dedication](#).

Congratulations / Felicitaciones

Coast Guard Cutter Mohawk (WMEC 913) Change of Command

On August 1, 2007, ANSO's own CDR Jose Nieves assumed command of the Coast Guard Cutter MOHAWK (WMEC 913) in Key West, Florida

Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light -45 Change of Command



On August 2, 2007, ANSO's own CDR Lawrence Vasquez assumed command of HSL-45 onboard Naval Air Station North Island, California.



RP1(SW/AW/FMF) Rafael Barney Naval Air Station Sigonella's 2007 Sailor of the Year

Rear Admiral Groothusen (CNRE) praised Petty Officer Barney as Naval Air Station Sigonella's Sailor of the Year at RP1's re-enlistment ceremony on the November 29, 2007. RP1 re-enlisted for 2 years on his birthday and received the shocking news of his selection as SOY as the Admiral gave RP1 his official coin. RP1 will be traveling with his wife and Command Master Chief to Naples, Italy in January to compete for CNRE's Sailor of the Year.

Petty Officer Barney is a native of Miami, Florida who joined the Navy on August 3, 2000. Upon completion of a tour of duty in Fallujah, Iraq, Petty Officer Barney accepted orders to his current assignment at Naval Air Station Sigonella. His primary duty is LPO of the Religious Ministries Department. RP1 represented Commander Naval Installations as the 2006 "RP of the Year" and is now NAS Sigonella's 2007 Sailor of the Year. RP1 founded and serves as the president of the SIGONELLA Latin American Association and is working diligently on establishing the first overseas ANSO Chapter in Sicily, Italy

Married to the former Tatiana Guevara Lopez, a native of Cali, Colombia, they now reside in Sigonella and are awaiting orders to report to the Navy Chief of Chaplain's office in Washington, D.C. in March 2008.

Professional Development

Hispanic Americans in the Coast Guard

The history of Hispanic Americans in the U.S. Coast Guard may be traced as far back as early 1800's. Hispanic Americans performed duties at light house stations as keepers and assistant keepers, such as Keeper José A. Ramirez, who was the Head Keeper of the Windward Point Light Station in Cuba, prior to World War II. Others served on board Revenue Service cutters and as surfmen at Life-Saving Service stations along the coast. Many gave their lives in the performance of their duties and others were decorated for their heroism.

Please click here for more information on [Hispanic Coasties](#).

First Hispanic female to command a Coast Guard afloat unit

In 2002, then LTJG Angelina Hidalgo became the first Hispanic female to command a Coast Guard afloat unit, Coast Guard Cutter KINGFISHER. She recently gave a candid interview with TIYM publishing about the Hispanic community and the Coast Guard. She also provides sage advice for today's youth. For more information about LT Hidalgo's interview please click here [2007/2008 Anuario Hispanio Hispanic Yearbook \(AHHY\)](#).

From the National Membership Chair

LT Delmy Cordon, USN

ANSO Membership includes active duty, reserve and retired officers and enlisted, as well as civilian employees of the US Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines, and NOAA. If you are a Sea Service Officer, you could become involved in increasing Hispanic representation and awareness in our Sea Services' officer corps. If you are a junior officer, you will have the opportunity to obtain advice and guidance from your peers and seniors. As a member of ANSO, you can share your life experiences and network with others of similar backgrounds, regardless of their career field.

If you are interested in becoming a member, renewing your membership, or your contact information needs to be updated please contact me at delmy.cordon@patrick.af.mil.