

LA businesswomen and community leaders honored

• **National Association of Women Business Owners—Los Angeles** recently recognized nine women for business achievements and contributions to the LA area, at the Hall of Fame Luncheon.

The following awards and their recipients were recognized:

- **Leadership Award: Toni Erickson Knight**, founder and chief executive officer of WorldLink, one of the country's fastest growing full-service media sales firms.
- **Legacy Award: Leilani Lattin Duke**, director of Reading By 9, the *Los Angeles Times*' five-county child literacy initiative.
- **Corporate Partner of the Year Award: American Honda Motor Co.**, represented by Anthony Piazza, assistant vice president of human resources and administration. The company was recognized for its commitment to business operations that reflect the diversity of the communities in which it sells products and for rewarding the hard work, skill, and quality of women-owned firms with business opportunities.
- **Advocate of the Year Award: Cynthia Amador**, president and chief executive officer of CHARO Community Development Corp., a community based nonprofit organization that offers business counseling, entrepreneur training, and access to business and mortgage loans to underserved Los Angeles minority and women owned businesses.
- **Inspiration of the Year Award: Valerie Sobel**, founder and president of Andre Sobel River of Life Foundation, a nonprofit organization that enables single mothers of children with life-threatening illnesses to care

for their children full-time by relieving financial burdens.

- **Hall of Fame Inductee: Madelyn Alfano**, owner of Maria's Italian Kitchen, an Italian restaurant chain with ten locations in the Los Angeles area.
- **Hall of Fame Inductee: Donna Andrews**, president of Lee Andrews Group, Inc., which provides technology, environmental, and public affairs consulting services to large scale public-private partnership projects.
- **Hall of Fame Inductee: Denise DeMan-Williams**, president and chief executive officer of Bench International, an executive search and consulting firm serving the healthcare industry.
- **Hall of Fame Inductee: Billie Greer**, founding principal of Greer/Dailey/Minter, a Los Angeles-based public affairs consulting firm.

National Association of Women Business Owners—Los Angeles strives to propel women entrepreneurs into economic, social, and political spheres of leadership. Founded in 1979, NAWBO-LA is one of the largest and fastest-growing chapters of NAWBO.

NAWBO-LA Enterprise Institute is a charitable foundation dedicated to increasing access to education and training, fostering entrepreneurial leadership, and stimulating economic development among women business owners.

NAWBO-LA is located at 900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 404, Los Angeles, CA, 90071, and can be reached at 213-622-3200 or at www.nawbola.org.

J.R. Gonzales

Acting USHCC president and CEO

The United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC) announced that its chairman of the board Gonzales has become the acting president and CEO of the Chamber, following the resignation of George Herrera, former USHCC president and CEO.

The board of directors has appointed a search committee to find a qualified replacement.

Gonzales, born in Mercedes, Texas, has been a life-long resident of Austin, Texas. He holds degrees in journalism and in public relations and advertising. He has had a long career in community activism plus 18 years of Chamber experience at all levels.

He is founder and current president of JRG Communications, Inc., a public relations and marketing firm that develops strategies at local, state, and national levels, offering resources in the areas of public affairs, public/media relations, political consulting, and media production in both English and Spanish. Gonzales also serves on the board of the Mexican and American Solidarity Foundation (Fundación Solidaridad Mexicano Americana FSMA)

Ricardo Alvarez

CEO and President Juanita's Foods

As part of its reorganization and expansion, the board of Juanita's Foods has appointed Ricardo Alvarez as the new chief executive officer and president of the corporation. Alvarez brings practical experience to this post from his previous assignments with such companies as Ruiz Foods, Country Pure Foods, and Burns Philip Food, Inc. He also holds a Ph.D. in Food Science.

Juanita's Foods, founded in 1946, is a privately held, minority-owned company that markets three brands (Juanita's Foods, Pico Pica Foods, and Tia Anita's) of authentic Mexican foods to both the retail market and the foodservice industry.

For more information about the company:

website: www.juanitasfoods.com

or contact Carol Ross at (310) 834-5339