



## Message from the Executive Director

July 2010 Issue

### Shala Perez

Get to know your KHLAAC commissioners. The all volunteer, seven member board of KHLAAC commissioners is appointed by the governor, with no more than four members of the same political party serving at one time. Each congressional district in the state of Kansas is represented on the commission by at least one member. Commission members serve three-year terms, with no limit on the number of terms they may serve.

## Meet your KHLAAC Commissioners



### Ma. Cecilia Ysaac-Belmares

#### Kansas City

Ma. Cecilia Ysaac-Belmares is the 3rd Congressional District Commissioner. Cecilia is a lifelong resident of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas. In 1998 Cecilia found her calling as a Spanish/English Language Medical Interpreter at KU Medical Center. In 2004 Cecilia became the first Wyandotte Countian to fulfill and complete the requirements established by the National Consortium for Language Access in the Courts, of Certified State Court Spanish Language Interpreter. Cecilia maintains ties to her community through membership with MANA de Kansas City, Los Promotores de Salud--El Centro Inc., University of Kansas Medical Center Community Advisor on Latino Health and Research Projects, JayDoc Free Clinic, and the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas Sister Cities program.



### Arturo Ponce

#### Liberal

Arturo Ponce is the 1st Congressional District Commissioner. Arturo is the coordinator of Minority HIV Prevention and Care for the United Methodist Mexican-American Ministries in the Southwest region of Kansas. Arturo is also a national trainer for the American Red Cross HIV Hispanic Prevention Program and the Chair of Education for Hispanos Unidos in Liberal Kansas. Arturo's deep involvement in serving the needs of his community are evident through his history of service, which includes: participating on the US Mexico Border Health Association, John Snow Institute Advisory Board and as a national trainer for its ENLACES project; member of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment HIV Prevention Community Planning Group, since 2002; member of the Kismet Lions Club; and graduate of the Kansas Health Foundation Fellows program 2007; lector and Communion Minister for the Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, D.C. and St. Patrick Church in Plains, Kansas.



**Peter Jasso**

**Topeka**

Peter is the 2nd Congressional District Commissioner. Peter serves as the Director of the Kansas Film Commission. After graduating from USC's School of Cinema-Television with a degree in Film/ Video Production, Peter Jasso worked in a variety of capacities in the entertainment industry including: sound recordist and designer for independent film/video projects, development for American Zoetrope and Esparza-Katz, and instructor at the New York Film Academy's Los Angeles office. He is an alumnus of Film Independent's Project Involve Mentorship program. Peter also produced a short film in Kansas that screened as part of the American Film Institute International Film Festival in LA and is in post-production on "Waiting for the Son", a feature project starring Lupe Ontiveros and Brian Aldiss.



**Robert Vinton**

**Dodge City**

Robert is the 1st Congressional District Commissioner. Robert is the ESL/Migrant director for USD 443. Robert graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with a Masters Degree in Education. Robert has worked as an assistant principal, a summer school principal, and as a coordinator of a grant. Robert has also worked as a migrant farm worker in Texas, Colorado, and South Dakota.



**Jesse Romo**

**Topeka**

Jesse is active in the state's aviation community. He serves as the Outreach Chair for the Kansas Commission on aerospace education and is an airport support network volunteer for the aircraft owners and pilots association at Topeka Billard airport. Jesse's professional portfolio includes experience in staffing, retail, aviation/transportation, government, non-profit and social service. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Los Angeles Mission College, has a bachelor degree from UCLA in sociology and a Master of Business Administration with a focus in aviation and specialization in human resource management from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

## **Commissioner's Corner**



**Ma. Cecilia Ysaac-Belmares-3rd Congressional District**

Greetings All,

The record has shown, after the dust settles following historic civil demonstrations, electoral involvement remains the key to making change. To react only after we are faced with a personal challenge, or feel the effects of a law that impacts our quality of life, is too late. We must learn to participate in our political process, elect people who will represent our needs, and begin communicating with legislators before laws are passed that will negatively impact us. Get involved in the legislative decision making process by voting, helping on a campaign, and contacting your legislators with your concerns. Lastly, I would like to encourage everyone to vote in the upcoming elections. If you need assistance registering to vote, KHLAAC can help you. Contact us to learn how to get involved in your government. "Together we Can- Juntos Podemos!"

## Arizona Immigration Law SB1070 Update

Arizona Immigration Law SB1070 requires all the immigrants to have their immigration documents with them to verify their status. The law gives police officials an authority to ask and to see the information not only from aliens but from any individual that is considered suspicious or when there is enough suspicion that suspect is not legal resident.

The Justice Department filed a lawsuit against the Arizona law from taking effect on July 29. The request will be heard by the U.S. Justice Department to block enforcement of the law. Check out our website [www.khlaac.ks.gov](http://www.khlaac.ks.gov) for links to additional information and updates on SB1070.

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## New Seat Belt Law

Kansas' new primary seat belt law went into effect June 10. This law changes Kansas' seat belt requirements from a secondary violation to a primary violation, making it possible for law enforcement officers to conduct traffic stop if the driver or front seat passenger isn't wearing their seat belt.



Auto accidents are the number one cause of death among Hispanics. The lack of understanding about the importance and safety benefits of seat belts among Hispanics has contributed to the lack of seatbelt use. We need to increase seat belt use within the Hispanic community if we are to decrease our high death rate. Additionally, the use of child safety seats in combination with seat belt use will significantly reduce death and injury among our children. For more information on the seat belt law visit: [www.ksdot.org/burtrafficsaf](http://www.ksdot.org/burtrafficsaf).

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## Governor Parkinson Signs Text-messaging Law

Gov. Mark Parkinson has signed a bill into law that will ban texting while driving on state roads.

Through Jan. 11, 2011, law enforcement will only issue warnings to drivers who are stopped for texting while operating a vehicle. The fine will then be \$60 after that date.

For more information on the texting law visit: [www.ksdot.org/burtrafficsaf](http://www.ksdot.org/burtrafficsaf).

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## Voter Registration & Voting

August 3<sup>rd</sup> is the primary election here in Kansas. This is how we determine which candidates will represent each political party on the ballot in November. Voting for the candidate of your choice is very important. Now is your chance to elect someone who will represent your views and needs.

Kansas elections are conducted by the counties with oversight by the Secretary of State's office. With advance voting, any registered voter can vote by mail or in person before Election Day. Find your legislator at: [www.ku.edu/pri/ksdata/vote/](http://www.ku.edu/pri/ksdata/vote/)



**Important Dates  
for the 2010  
Primary Election**

*Monday, July 19*  
Deadline to  
register to vote

*Friday, July 30*  
Deadline to apply  
for advance ballot  
to be mailed

*Tuesday, August 3*  
Primary Election

# EVENTS



KHLAAC commissioners Peter Jasso and Jesse Romo participated in the Fiesta Mexicana parade in downtown Topeka. The Fiesta Mexicana is a celebration of culture and heritage. The Fiesta Mexicana is Our Lady of Guadalupe's major fundraiser for Holy Family School. The fiesta included music, food and entertainment.

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## Governor Parkinson Commemorates Brown v. Board

To uphold the historic implications of the Brown v. Board of Education decision made 56 years ago, Governor Parkinson signed SB 54 into law.

“Brown v. Board remains at the cornerstone of the Kansas story, reminding us of where we first began and how far we have come,” said Parkinson. “In joining the likes of John Stuart Curry and his *Tragic Prelude*, the mural will allow future generations to look back and become inspired by our state’s remarkable history.”



SB 54 creates the Capitol Preservation Committee, which is required to develop plans for the placement of a mural in the State Capitol commemorating the United States Supreme Court Decision in the case of *Brown V. Board of Education*. No public funds from being used to pay the costs of creating and installing the mural.

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## Naleo Conference

Shala Perez, executive director for Khlaac attended the 2010 NALEO Annual Conference.

The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund, is an organization that empowers Latinos to participate fully in the American political process. The conference sessions included four distinctive policy focuses: education policy, health policy, sustainable communities, and governance and political empowerment.



## Commissioner Arturo Ponce

Arturo Ponce has recently been awarded an Advocacy Fellowship to join the 2009-2010 class of the Sunflower Foundation, a leadership class for community executive directors. Arturo was featured in the Liberal Chamber of Commerce 2010 community calendar “Men & Women of Distinction”. Congratulations Arturo!

