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Monthly Newsletter

YOUR SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY INFORMATION

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DACA AND DAPA, WHAT'S HAPPENING?

This election year, immigration has become one of the central debates for candidates from both parties, including the injunction on the executive actions issued by president Obama known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA expanded) and Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA) in November 2014. These executive actions have been faced with both support and opposition as the U.S. Supreme Court prepares to begin oral arguments for the case on April 18.

In addition to organizing vigils, fasts, rallies, and events with elected officials around the country, 326 organizations, including El CENTRO, filed an amicus brief urging the Court to rule in favor of keeping families united and to provide deportation relief for over 5 million immigrants in the country. Dozens of other briefs in favor of DACA+ and DAPA were filed and included Congresswoman Lujan Grisham, Congressman Lujan, Senator Heinrich, and Attorney General Balderes to show New Mexico's support.

It is important to mention that the anti-immigrant opposition has also filed amicus briefs and taken positions against the relief programs. This includes House Speaker Ryan and the Republican majority in the US House of Representatives and anti-immigrant governors, including Susana Martínez. This is yet one more example of Governor Martínez' unyielding attack against immigrant communities and demonstrates that she does not recognize our social, economic, and cultural contributions to the state. She is taking a position against programs which would allow millions of immigrants with deep roots in this country to keep our families together, have increased economic security, more fully integrate into our communities, and transform our lives.

As we approach the hearing date, here are the main points to keep in mind for the case:

- Oral arguments for the case begin on April 18. There will be no ruling on that date.
- The court will be analyzing whether DAPA and expanded DACA initiatives are in accordance with federal immigration law.
- Experts are confident the court will consider legal precedent which favors the Obama Administration.
- The Supreme Court finishes its work period in June which is when a ruling is expected for the case.
- DACA 2012 is still being implemented and those who qualify can continue to apply for this relief program.

Now more than ever it is crucial for each of us to do our part. If you qualify for naturalization, do not hesitate and become a U.S. Citizen and get registered to vote! The ruling from the Supreme Court is only half the battle. This election year could create a more hostile environment for the immigrant community if the wrong people are elected into power. For those of us who cannot vote, inform your community about candidate's positions, register others, and ensure that the community turns out en masse. It's not just your duty but your responsibility to become part of the democratic process!

If you'd like more information on DACA 2012, DACA+ (expanded) and DAPA and how you and your family can be preparing for implementation, visit www.listonm.org where you'll find all the necessary information on these programs. Listo NM is a statewide campaign focused on preparing the community for the implementation of DACA+ and DAPA; there is also guidance about how to apply for, or renew DACA 2012 for those who qualify.

SABER ES PODER...

You don't like the anti-immigrant, xenophobic positions that Presidential candidates are taking? Are you DACAmended or are you the child of a parent who should qualify for DAPA and you want to make sure our next president supports administrative relief? Do you want to elect local candidates that support our values as a community? If you answered, yes, register to vote if you are eligible, inform yourself about the candidates positions, and get involved!

To register to vote you must be a U.S. citizen, a New Mexico resident, and 18 years old on or before the next election

OJO: El CENTRO is issuing a challenge to all the 17 year olds who are US citizens who will be 18 on or before November 8th, 2016 (the date of general election)! The New Mexico legislature just passed a new, exciting law that also allows 17 year olds that will be 18 by the date of the general election to vote in the primary election on June 7th, 2016.

Important dates:

- May 10, 2016 is the last day to register to vote before the Primary Election
- June 7th 2016 is primary election day!

If you are eligible to vote, we can help you register at El CENTRO! Ask to speak with our staff. For information on your other options to register to vote, go to the Bernalillo County Clerk's office at <http://www.berncoc.gov/clerk/new-voter-registration.aspx>



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WAGE THEFT WORKSHOPS

WHEN: March 6, 13, 21 and 27
TIME: 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
ADDRESS: 714 4th St SW 87102
DESCRIPTION: Attend these free workshops if you think you've been a victim of wage theft and/or discrimination, and want to learn about your rights and options. Call us at (505) 246-1627 to reserve a place.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WORKSHOPS

WHEN: April 13th @ 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
ADDRESS: 3426 Barelmas Rd. SW
DESCRIPTION: Join us for these free workshops to learn about your rights with law enforcement and in the workplace. Call us at (505) 246-1627 for more information.

DÍAS DE ALCANCE

WHEN: April 24th
WHERE: Look for our organizers around your community.
WHAT: Learn how you can protect yourself and fight against Wage Theft. Also learn about the available resources for all workers who are currently going through or have suffered from Wage Theft.

JUNTA DE MEMBRESÍA

WHEN: April 21
WHERE: EL CENTRO (714 4th St. SW)
WHAT: Come join us at our membership meeting where we will discuss different issues affecting our community currently. Also take the time to meet other members and to engage in collective actions.

PREPARATION FOR MAY 1ST

WHEN: April 15th, 27th, 29th @ 6 p.m. and 30th @ TBA
WHERE: EL CENTRO (714 4th St. SW)
WHAT: Come join us for a day full of creative activities where we will develop and manufacture all decorations for the May 1st Parada/Celebration. Come and share your creative abilities with us.

MAY 1st CELEBRATION

WHEN: May 1st
WHERE: Isleta Blvd. & Blake Rd. @ 10 a.m.
WHAT: Come and join EL CENTRO in celebrating May 1st during the South Valley Celebration 2016. EL CENTRO will be taking part in a parade where we will celebrate all of the immigrant community's contributions to NM's economy and we'll highlight the need for immigration relief through DACA and DAPA.



REMEMBERING CÉSAR CHÁVEZ' LEGACY

The Albuquerque community along with members and the staff from EL CENTRO came together to celebrate César Chávez' legacy on Sunday, March 27.

César Chávez was a Mexican-American farm worker, labor leader and civil rights activist, who, with Dolores Huerta, co-founded the National Farm Workers Association (later the United Farm Workers union, UFW). His legacy continues to thrive, as he was a catalyst for the fight for farmworker's rights.

With hundreds of participants, the celebration organized by the Recuerdo César Chávez Committee, consisted of a march that began and culminated at the National Hispanic Cultural Center where, after the march, there was free entertainment, ranging from performances to

concerts. EL CENTRO's membership had an opportunity to express the importance of the immigrant community's contribution to New Mexico's economy and the importance of continuing to fight for worker's rights against unscrupulous businesses that try to take advantage of a worker's immigration status.

If you'd like to find out about more opportunities to get involved in events happening around Albuquerque or to get to know more about our Workers' Justice Project, follow us on Facebook, visit our website www.elcentronm.org or give us a call at (505) 246-1627.

"There's no turning back... We will win. We are winning because ours is a revolution of mind and heart..."
 – César Chávez

APRIL, WORKERS' RIGHTS MONTH

EL CENTRO continues to designate the month of April as 'Workers' Rights Month' culminating on May 1st which is celebrated worldwide as International Workers' Day. Wage Theft is rampant in New Mexico. The immigrant community is particularly affected by this type of labor abuse. As a way to combat Wage Theft in Albuquerque, we are launching a new section on our website dedicated to empowering workers to share their stories and to denounce this shameful practice of stealing workers' wages.

EL CENTRO will also be having 'outreach days' in different locations around the city. The main purpose of the outreach is for workers to inform other workers that wage theft is against the law and spread the word that regardless of immigration status, all workers' have

rights. We believe that by working together, we can put an end to Wage Theft. This practice does not only affect the workers but it also robs the local and state economy of millions of dollars. The outreach dates are on April 10th and the 24th.

Make sure to stay connected with us through our Facebook page. We will be announcing our different outreach dates as well as when and where can you tune in to hear more about the work we're doing in our Workers' Justice Project. Don't forget to visit our website www.elcentronm.org where you will find the personal stories of our members who have been victims of wage theft and have become Wage Theft Warriors by doing their part to educate and organize other workers.

