El CENTRO Priority Platform for the 2020 Legislative Session

The 55th New Mexico legislative session is only days away. Every two years the legislative session is 30 days which will be held this year starting on January 21 where the focus will be on issues associated with the budget.

Due to this approach, many of the issues will be about the states budget, but there may be other bills that might be added to the governor’s call that might become a priority for our community.

Therefore, El CENTRO its members and our community will be present in our home, the Roundhouse during this legislative session. During the month long session we will be present to ensure that our money is invested in our working and immigrant communities and to ensure that the budget reflects our values as new Mexicans. Starting with securing funds to better inform our community about the 2020 Census and the importance of participating in it. That way our state can ensure good representation in our government and secure funds for public services.

El CENTRO will also be supporting bills that help advance the rights of our workers and that help keep our families together. Among them, proposals that safeguard our sensitive personal information such as our ITIN number, and social security number. Some agencies such as the Department of Corrections and Probation are regularly sharing information with ICE, we saw this just as recently as in September of last year.

On the other hand, privatized prisons continue to benefit from the imprisonment, persecution and deportation of our communities. CENTRO will -
El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos

ElCENTERNM.org        (505)247-1627

Monthly Newsletter- EICID

Calendar of Events:

MONTHLY CLINIC: MANO-A-MANO
WHEN: Jan.30th and Feb.13th
WHERE: EL CENTRO
(714 4th ST SW 87102)
TIME: 5:30-7PM

START OF LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS:
WHEN: January 21st
WHERE: Roundhouse
(490 Old Santa Fe Trail)

CIVIL RIGHTS WORKSHOPS:
CUANDO: Contact us to program workshop by visiting us at:
www.ElCENTRONM.org

IMMIGRANTS DAY OF ACTION:
WHEN: January 27th
WHERE: Roundhouse
(490 Old Santa Fe Trail)
TIME: 7:45AM at EL CENTRO to go to Santa Fe. Return time at 3PM

DOMESTIC WORKERS MEETING:
WHEN: February 7th
WHERE: EL CENTRO
TIME: 5:30-6:30PM

LEGISLATIVE SESSION ENDS:
WHEN: February 20th

VALENTINES DAY:
WHEN: February 14th

continue to support bills that stop the expansion and terminate these privatized prisons.

Another problem that continues to grow in our state and that further plunges our families into poverty is wage theft. The Department of Workforce Solutions (DWS) does not have the necessary resources to deal with this problem or to enforce new laws that we have recently passed, such as the increase in the minimum wage and laws that have ended with exclusions for domestic workers under the minimum wage. Therefore, EL CENTRO will be supporting an increase to the DWS budget.

Finally, EL CENTRO will also support the Tax Credit for Working Families if this proposal becomes part of the call of the governor. Currently, families that pay taxes with an ITIN number do not have access to the same benefits as other families in our state. This proposal would end this unfair exclusion.

For more information on how you can join us during this legislative session to ensure that our legislators pass proposals that reflect our values, call:

EL CENTRO at 505-246-1627.

On January 4th dozens community members attended our leadership summit, an annual event by EL CENTRO where the community as well as state representatives learned from each other about the issues that are most affecting our community. And at the same time they learned how the legislature works and how to work together during this next legislative session to keep families together, advance workers’ rights and ways to help advance bills that reflect our values.

In attendance during this event were six state representatives which include Representative Georgene Louis, Senator Antoinette Sedillo López, Representative Daymon Ely from District 23, Representative Melanie Stansbury, Representative Christine Trujillo from District 25 and Representative Javier Martinez.

“My experience during this summit was very pleasant,” said Lucy Hernandez, a member of EL CENTRO. “It taught me a lot about the proposals we could see during this legislative session. I want to continue to be present this year in the session so that laws are passed that benefit our immigrant community.”

“"I was very pleased to see members of the community supporting each other and putting into practice the strategies we have been learning all these years,” said Javier Martinez State Representative for DJ1- “We expect a fairly important legislative session with many more victories to come.”

This year the legislative session will be 30 days with a focus on the state budget scheduled to start this January 21.

Have you seen EL CENTRO’s new shirt? Get yours TODAY! By calling EL CENTRO at:

505.246.1627

To learn how you can participate in this legislative session call EL CENTRO at 505-246-1627.
After years of continuous “lucha” by low-wage workers and their families, starting on January 1, 2020, low-wage workers will receive an increase in their minimum wage. If you work in Albuquerque your salary will increase to $9.35. While in Bernalillo County at $9.20. The state minimum wage will rise to $9.00 per hour, which will not affect workers in ABQ or Bernalillo County since they already earn more.

Remember the minimum wage applies depending on where you work.

The Immigrant Day of Action has arrived! The event will be sponsored by our allies of Somos un Pueblo Unido. El CENTRO will be a co-sponsor of this event where the community will have the opportunity to participate in a training, a small march, and visit and talk to our legislators about issues that affect our working immigrant community.

Members of El CENTRO in Albuquerque may meet at El CENTRO (714 4th ST SW) to travel by bus at 8:00 AM and then return from the Roundhouse at 3PM.

Your $10.00 donation will include breakfast, lunch, transportation and a El CENTRO t-shirt.

Without a shirt, the suggested donation will be $5 dollars. We hope to see you there!
This year we ALL must participate in the Census, regardless of your immigration status, age or origin! Every ten years the government counts all the people living in the country. The count includes everyone including our children who are often left out. The count is used to determine political representation and financing for things such as education, health and housing. Therefore, ALL of us benefit when everyone participates.

El CENTRO will be carrying out a campaign to better inform our community about the facts of the 2020 Census and to ensure their participation, so that their voices are heard. Obtaining a fair and accurate Census is important to ensure the financing of the programs that our families need to succeed, such as schools and hospitals. Also by participating we ensure that we have good representation in our government. By April 1, 2020 every home in the U.S. should already have received an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to be informed on the latest regarding the 2020 Census.

On December 18th El CENTRO celebrated International Migrants Day with a Christmas party. During the event the diversity of our community was celebrated as well as all the victories that our community had in 2019 thanks to the continuous “lucha” of our working/immigrant families. Victories such as the increase in the minimum wage, paid time off for workers in Bernalillo County, and immigrant-friendly policies “in Bernalillo County, among other achievements.

With live music and entertainment by El Gozao, Desoluna Folk Group, El CENTRO and the community also celebrated 20 years of “lucha” by our executive director, Rachel LaZar at El CENTRO to defend, strengthen, and advance the rights of low-wage workers and immigrant families in New Mexico. The event ended by announcing the winners of our Christmas raffle where members won two bicycles, a turkey, a Taco Sánchez dinner and a television.

A huge thanks to all who accompanied us, donated their time to make the event possible or donated food or other materials.

Thank you for Supporting our “Tamales por la Justicia!”

Thanks to all who helped make our “Tamales por la Justicia” possible. In less than 24 hours were purchased. Thanks to the volunteers who helped us prepare the tamales, those who donated ingredients, the space to make them and those who obtained our tamales. We hope you enjoyed and shared the tamales with your loved ones during this past holiday season. Every penny will be invested in the struggle to keep our families together and advance workers’ rights.

Donate to El CENTRO by Visiting Pay Pal