

Legacy of Empowerment: 50 Years Strong



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Past President (1996-1998)

Key Initiatives/Achievements

- Infrastructure work started by Sara Torres was continued formalizing policies & procedures, board development, strategizing about financial stability and fund raising and thanks to COSSMO (now the National Alliance for Hispanic Health) for providing office space in Washington D.C. which helped lend credibility to NAHN.
- The second component that had momentum was membership and the formation of local chapters, but NAHN National should be able to bring resources to the local chapters to support the impact in local communities.
- Networking & visibility was the third area that was a priority. We were fortunate to have a number of nurses of our membership in national organizations, for example Rose Gonzalez, was the policy leader of the ANA and she ensured that we were at the table and we understood the policies affecting Latino Health. We worked Jane Delgado from COSSMO; we worked with AACN's Geraldine "Polly" Bednash to submit a grant proposal, we were able to get a small contract from HRSA that helped bridge local chapters to National, taking a look at issues around Hispanic mobility. We also worked with NINR and were able to get a Latina member for the Advisory Council through my advocacy and the help of Mary Lou de Leon Siantz.

Final thoughts

"As we embark in the next 50 years of NAHN, I think you see, we still have some of the same related issues in the organization. My advice is, again, get your house in order. Board development is particularly important, understanding and treasuring the relationships between national and local chapters is important and I would say finally, the strength and treasure we have is in the person sitting next to you.

Continue to network, continue to build and continue to speak with one voice in relation to what we need for our communities."

