

The National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN) launched its journal in 2002 to address health issues impacting Hispanic and Latino communities. It covers clinical practice, education, research, policy, global health, and technology, serving as an educational resource and advocacy tool. The journal highlights health disparities and promotes culturally competent care, advancing health equity and improving outcomes. With an impact factor of 1.5, it contributes significantly to academic discourse and is frequently referenced by researchers.

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This is the first issue of *Hispanic Health Care International*: The Official Publication of the National Association of *Hispanic Nurses*. It is dedicated to the founder of our organization, Dr. Ildaura Murillo-Rohde. We have asked Dr. Rohde to write the first Editorial for the journal.

The Editors Spring/Summer 2002

EDITORIAL

A Message From the Founder of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses

t is a great accomplishment that after 26 years and the promise in 1991 that within five years the National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN) would have a

professional peer-reviewed journal, as well as the determination and hard work of our Editors, Dr. Nilda (Nena) Peragallo and Dr. Sara Torres, that the journal has ever become a reality. For me as the founder of NAHN it is a great satisfaction, opportunity, and privilege to have an international interdisciplinary journal, where our Latino nurses, Latino health professionals, researchers and scholars interested in Latino health issues can publish their work.

Today more than ever it is critical to have new ideas, findings, cultural expertise, and understanding of the health behaviors, practices and beliefs

germane to Latinos. In the U.S. Census of 2000, of the 281.4 million residents that were counted, 35.3 million indicated that they were of Hispanic origin. Since the previous census in 1990, the Hispanic population has increased by 57.9%, making the Hispanic/Latinos the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population (U.S.

Census, 2001). However, Hispanics/Latinos are a heterogeneous group from various countries that share a common language, and some cultural values but that are

different in their response to health and illnesses. Only when the health care providers understand that, will it be possible to render sensitive, respectful care to each individual, family and community. The term Hispanic/Latino is used to embrace the diversity of Latinos in the United States. Our organization is a reflection of this diversity.

It is my hope and dream that through the publication of our scholarly journal, new knowledge, methods and theories will emerge that will inform clinicians, educators, and researchers about the news in their areas of expertise. By having the international component, with

all abstracts in the journal translated to Spanish, we will give our colleagues abroad a forum where their research, practice or educational issues with Hispanic/Latinos can be published and thus contribute to the global exchange of information and the building of bridges of knowledge across nations.



REFERENCE

U.S. Census. (2000). *Projections of the resident population by race* [Table NP-+5A]. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office.

Ildaura Murillo-Rohde, PhD, RN, CS, ND, FAAN NAHN Founder & President Emeritus State University of New York–Brooklyn





Adrianna Nava, PhD, MPA, MSN, RN, FAAN Past President (2021-2024)

Key Inititatives/Achievements

- Successful planning & implementation of first Hispanic Health Policy Summit
- Standardized processes in NAHN by creating policies
- Established relationships with federal partners and other non-profits to collaborate on Hispanic agenda to make a greater impact on policy & advocacy
- Secured Climate Action grant to increase NAHN members' knowledge regarding climate effects on health
- Secured Fuel2flourish grant through a partnership with the Biden administration to get funding for 9 chapters to execute small pilot projects to improve nutrition, mental health and inspire children to consider nursing

Final thoughts

"I'm really excited for the work we've done together and the future of NAHN because we have such an engaged membership. With over 3000 members, it's really exciting to see the impact our members will have, not only on a local community level, but at the national level when they take additional positions of leadership."







Norma Cuellar, PhD, RN, FAAN Past President (2018-2020)

Key Inititatives/Achievements

- Empowered NAHN chapters across the U.S. to expand the reach and impact of the AOU research initiative improving health literacy, health outcomes and Latino participation in research through the AOU research initiative.
- Led the development of the Latino Leadership Institute.
- Enabled 78 NAHN members to complete their RN-BSN BAMA L grant.

Final thoughts

I would remind you we are in a very sensitive time right now. We all need to focus on education. There are many quotes that speak to this. According to Nelson Mandela "education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world".







Anabell Castro Thompson, MSN, APRN, ANP-C, FAAN, FAANP Past President (2016-2018)

Key Inititatives/Achievements

- We signed the contract to get the legacy of NAHN inside the Barbara Bates Center of Nursing Center at University of Pennsylvania where the NLN & Ildaura Murillo-Rohde's personal archive is housed.
- The Phoenix conference was one of the highest attended conferences with over 519 members and numerous sponsors and booth representatives in attendance.
- In order to cement and expand NAHNs footprint and reach, we leveraged and expanded grants for NAHN, developed more intentional partnerships with other nursing organizations, increased collaboration and began policy and advocacy development and we transitioned to the Latino Leadership Institute to elevate and support the next facet of leaders for NAHN.
- We transitioned to an organizational management company and hired an executive director seperate from the mangement company.
- We explored ways to unify NAHN and improve value for the membership. We began pursuing an impact factor for our journal and explored the elements needed to retain members.

Final thoughts

"We've come a long way from a mom & pop shop to an organization that now services our communities, our nurses and the profession as a whole. And so the theme of this years conference is Cultura, Familia y Herencia are the principals of NAHN, and so my message to all of you is let's continue to foment these principals in our communities, in our professionalism and as members of NAHN".







Daniel Suarez, MA, RN,NYAM Fellow Past President (2014-2016)

Key Inititatives/Achievements

- Provided a strong infrastructure with financial growth & sustainability for NAHN through the selection of the first management company
- Led the revision of NAHNs Journal to include logo for branding and scholarly/research articles
- Initiated the community service projects at each conference

Final thoughts

"Being a member of NAHN implies you want to be a leader. But remember, those that came before us, paved the rough road for us and if you're not at the table, you're being served. So, be the change agent we are called to be.".







Jose Alejandro, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, MBA, FACHE, FAAN
Past President (2012-2014)

Key Inititatives/Achievements

- Opportunity to elevate NAHN using a business model
- First President to include the immediate Past President and President Elect
- to create a five year strategic plan to have financial sustainability while completing our fiduciary responsibilities as board members.
- It was under my leadership that the seed for COBA (Council of Business Advisors) was planted...made up of industry leaders outside of nursing, of which the originals were Pfizer, CVS & United Healthcare. This was more than just being a corporate member, this was about giving us advice on how to be influential on the national level.

Final thoughts

"My call to action is that we need to have a seat at the table and run for offices beyond our associaiton, we also need to run for other positions on civic organizations and political offices across the country- on school boards, at the county, state or federal level. It's time for more Latino nurses to have a seat at the bigger table where decisions are made that affect our Hispanic communities. While our founders were our originals, we look forward to seeing what new leaders will accomplish in years to come."







Angie Millan, DNP, RN, FAAN Past President (2010-2012)

Key Inititatives/Achievements

- 1st NIH Grant for 1.2 Million dollars was secured (Hispanic Role Models in Healthcare Careers).
- 5 year Coca-Cola grant for \$150,000 (NAHN Muevete U.S.A).
- Collaborated with 3 Presidents to create & continue strategic plan to secure NAHNs long term goals.

Final thoughts

"NAHN was formed because our founders, felt the ANA was not adequately addressing their needs. While progress has been made, recent trends of abolishing Diversity Equity and Inclusion initiatives in some states highlights the need for NAHN to continue to advocate."







Norma Martinez-Rogers, PhD, RN, FAAN Past President (2008-2010)

Key Inititatives/Achievements

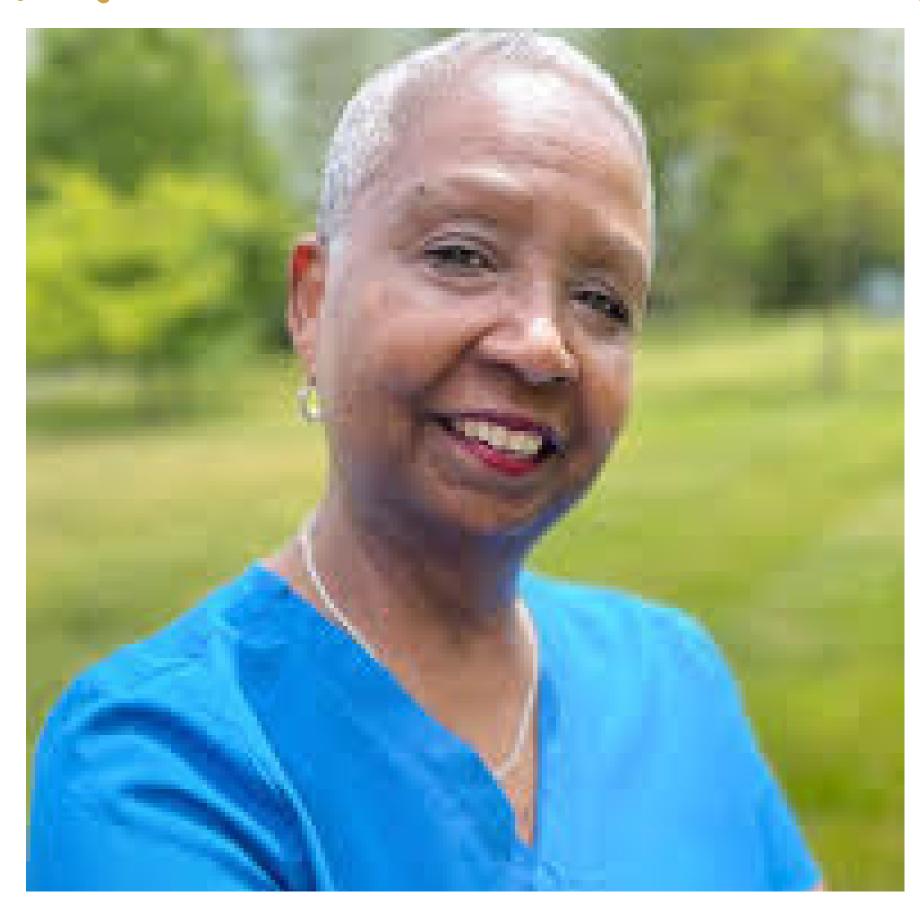
- Increased visibilty in Washington DC
- Acquired the United Health Grant & Coca Cola Foundation
- Acquired funding from Congress to execute the *Juntos Podemos* Mentorship program throughout the U.S.

Final thoughts

"In these challenging and uncertain times, unity is essential. To all NAHN members: it is vital that you not only understand advocacy but fully embrace it. As a non-profit organization, advocacy is a cornerstone of our mission, and it cannot be pursued in isolation, Collaboration is key. I would also like to encourage greater involvement between the International Association of Latino Nurse Faculty and Nurse Leaders with NAHN, as we strive to advance our shared goals."







Maria Tere Villot, BSN, RN Past President (2006-2008)

Key Inititatives/Achievements

- I was the first BSN nurse to hold the NAHN Presidentcy.
- The Pesident's retreat, now known as the Latino Leadership Institute (LLI), was created to as a way to show appreciation to the Presidents for their service and dedication, develop leadership skills and for them to have a venue to share what they were doing with other chapter leaders.
- It was also during my tenure that a NAHN foundation was established (now closed) to provide financial suport to nursing students.

Final thoughts

"As we move forward, we must know and remember our past, continue to work and improve NAHNs future and we must remember who and why NAHN was created (mission and vision)."







Rev. Dr. Rudy Valenzuela, PhD, NP, FAANP Past President (2004-2006)

Key Inititatives/Achievements

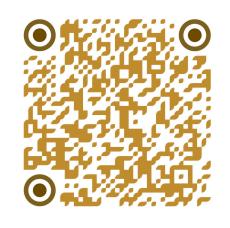
- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Rudy earned his Master of Science in nursing as well as his Ph.D. in Nursing at the University of Arizona.
- Founded clinics in San Luis, Arizona, as well as in San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, where he treats the underprivileged and provides access to care
- He is a Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (FAANP) and the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN).

Final thoughts

Care Philosophy: I believe in providing a holistic, cultural and social approach to medicine. I serve not only the physical needs of my patients, but also their spiritual needs.

Reftrieved from: https://www.onvidahealth.org/provider/rudy-valenzuela-ph-d-f-n-p/







Nilda (Nena) Peragallo Montano, DrPH, RN, FAAN Past President (2002-2004)

Key Inititatives/Achievements

- Contributed to an overhaul of NAHNs finances by bringing in a financial advisor leading to positive financial outcomes.
- Organized and negotiated conferences in nice venues with gains for NAHN including increased membership.
- Collaborated in the start of NAHNs Journal and served as Editor of the Hispanic Healthcare International Journal together with Dr. Sara Torres, and edited the journal for many years.

Final thoughts

"We are still lacking the numbers in the profession. We need to recruit more Latino nurses into nursing and more members into the organization. Additionally, I think it's important for all of us to be available to mentor others, for us to share the experiences we have encountered, whether it is in clinical sites, academia or wherever our profession was practiced. Wherever we are, always be ready to mentor the next generation, that's really providing the best for our future generation of nurses."







Mary Lou de Leon Siantz, PhD, RN, FAAN Past President (2000-2002)

Key Inititatives/Achievements

- Co-founder of National Association Hispanic Nurses
- Helped to establish the collaboration & partnership with the NIH to facilitate development of a post doctoral appointment for a doctoral student at the national clinical center that led to facilitating appointment to the National Advisory Council to the NINR. This resulting in funding to NAHN,
- Established National Hispanic Nurses Day in Washington D.C in partnership with Congressman Rubén Eloy Hinojosa (15th District, TX).
- Appointed an accountant and developed fiduciary responsibility of the president for the budget, accounts and finances of NAHN.
- The devlopement of Hispanic Health International whiich represents the voice of Hispanic People. The impact factor has grown over time.

Final thoughts

"Things I would advise you to look for moving forward~ always look to the mission of NAHN. Although visions will change depending on the President and administrative team and looks at what's needed and applying the mission, but the mission remains to represent the health of all Hispanic people and to be the voice of Hispanic Nurses and to advocate the education and professional leadership and opportunities for Hispanic Nurses. That wll never change, that is the essence of what we have always been. For all those coming into NAHN, look & think about the mission and vision and how you can lead in those areas. Develop leadership, look for mentors to buildyour skillset".







Carmen Portillo, PhD, RN, FAAN Past President (1998-2000)

Key Inititatives/Achievements

- NAHN member since 1986 while attending nursing school.
- There were three goals of my tenure
 - the first was to grow the membership because we had less than 1000 members and my goal was to get us up to at least 1000, which we achieved.
 - The second goal was to support the chapters across the country and to see their viabilty and excitement to come together.
 - The third goal was financial sustainability. As with most and all non-profit organizations, financial sustainability is critical. The way we achieved that was through contributions and financial support from different companies such as Johnson & Johnson, Proctor and Gamble and Pfizer. The other accomplishment during that time was having the National House, contributed by Jane Delgado, our little office in Washington D.C. and we were able to get a partime receptionist for the office.

Final thoughts

"Support one another and avoid drama—this isn't about any one person; it's about the organization and our mission to uplift and inspire more Latinas(os) to join the nursing profession. Let's step out of our silos and connect across chapters, across the country, and with past and present Latino leaders—nurses or not. They have so much to offer. NAHN has accomplished a lot, but there's still important work ahead—especially in educating our communities and navigating healthcare challenges like the loss of Medicare and Medicaid benefits. Be a leader wherever you are—use your voice, share your ideas, and know that you matter.

NAHN played a vital role in my own growth, and it can in yours too—but the impact depends on what you give. You get back what you invest. Stay engaged, stay vocal, and continue to support your only voice and national Hispanic nursing organization—NAHN."







Antonia Villarruel, PhD, RN, FAAN Past President (1996-1998)

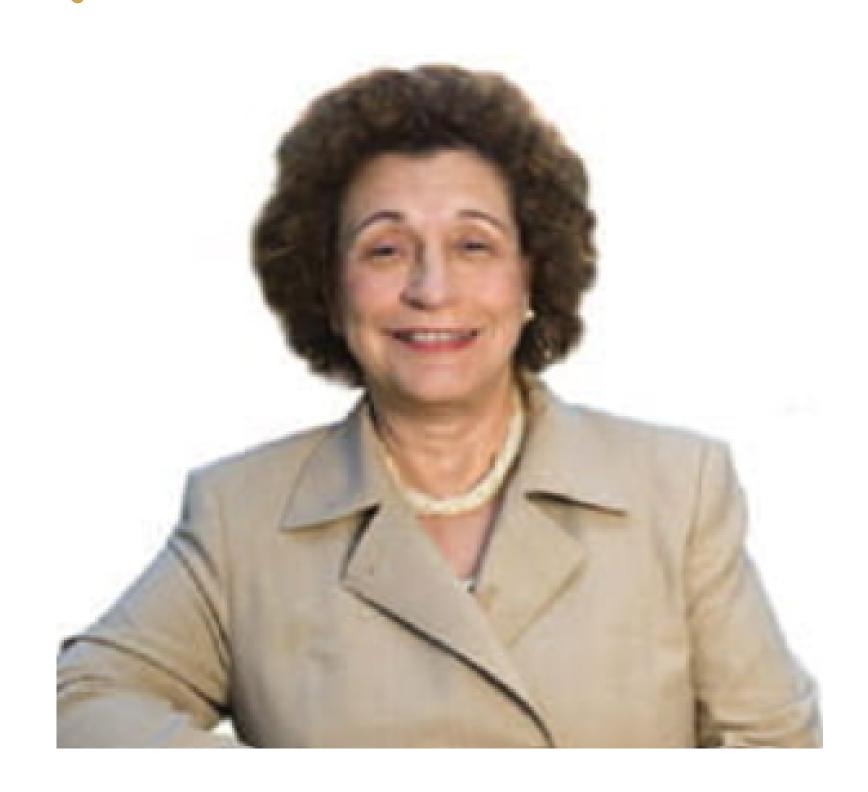
Key Inititatives/Achievements

- Infrastructure work started by Sara Torres was continued formalizing policies & procedures, board development, stratgizing 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 & visibilty 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."





Sara Torres, PhD, RN, FAAN
Past President (1992-1994 & 1994-1996)

Key Inititatives/Achievements

- Co-Founder & Editor of HHCI
- During my tenure as President of NAHN, I focused on three key objectives:
 - strengthening the organization's infrastructure,
 - securing administrative support, and
 - increasing membership.
- By the end of my term, we had successfully established office space in Washington, D.C., and hired a part-time secretary to provide administrative assistance one day per week. Additionally, membership grew steadily, especially toward the end of my second term. We also initiated preliminary discussions with Springer to explore the development of a professional journal, which ultimately led to its successful launch.

Final thoughts

"I'm very proud of how NAHN has grown. I congratulate all the presidents and leadership of NAHN for the years that followed, for all the hard work they have done, and it shows. NAHN is more visible, so just keep doing what you have been doing, because you have been doing a great job to bring NAHN to where it is now."







Janie Menchaca Wilson, PhD, RN Past President 1988-1990 & 1990-1992

Key Inititatives/Achievements

- Expansion of NAHN state chapters to increase memberships.
- Secured funding, administered by NAHN, in collaboration with Ms. Remigia Aurora Garcia for a four-year grant to train Hispanic nurses in Texas to promote breast health among Hispanic women in their areas.
- Developed a Competency Based Nursing Career Ladder Model.
- Janie Menchaca Wilson Leadership Award is available to NAHN members show outstanding leadership contributions at the local community, state, or national level.

Final Thoughts

"Develop your education and be actively engage in initiatives to develop yourself and others to meet the needs of Hispanics."





Henrietta Villaescusa, MPH, RN*
Past President
1984-1986 & 1986-1988

Key Inititatives/Achievements

- Co-founder of NAHN.
- As Chief Nurse Consultant in the Office of Maternal and Child Health, Bureau of Community Health Services, she formulated national nursing health policies & plans for women & children, including addressing infant mortality and and the establishment of community and migrant worker health clinics.
- Led the development of a comprehensive Hispanic Health Bibliography (Villaescusa, 1986, as cited in Villaruel & Fairman, 2024, p2), amlifying the need for research and data on the health needs of the Hispanics.

Final thoughts

"The search for the future requires tough minds and tender hearts. During these days when we meet to plan for the future we will all inhabit, our greatest resource may be to approach the present aware of our personal and professional past. A viable future is built on twin pillars of past and present. Our culture illuminates this lesson with the word *recordar*. That is, to remember is not simply an intellectual exercise, but a habit of the heart. For NAHN, the future will bear fruit if during our deliberations we can recall that persons with heart can move mountains and even change minds, but that it must first begin with ourselves" (Henrietta Villescusa (1986). *Biennual Conference Supplement Message from the President of NAHN*. Retrieved from Murillo Rohde archived materials. UPENN Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing.



Hector Hugo Gonzalez, PhD, VR-RN Past President (1982-1984)

Key Inititatives/Achievements

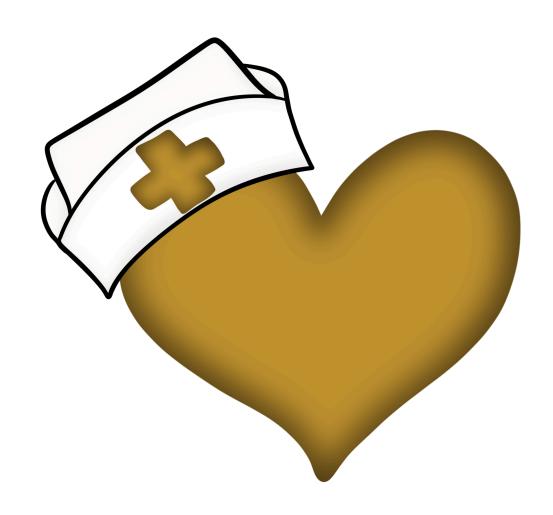
- Co-Founder of NAHN
- Received first grant for NAHN, through the help of Rudy Diaz of COSSMHO (\$10,000) for NAHNs annual conference in Los Angeles.
- Served on the Board of Directors for the NLN
- Served on the National Advicsory Council on Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism in Washington, D.C. & National Advisory for Nursing Education

Final thoughts

"Moving forward, I hope that NAHN needs to develop a plan on the national level to assist to strengthenand support the chapters on a local level, become more community oriented, do more health fairs and get our brand out there to show what we are doing. Another gola I would like to see NAHN move in the direction of creating international chapters- Spain, Cuba, Portugal, Colombia."







Berta Mejia, MSN, RN* Past President (1980-1982)

Key Inititatives/Achievements

- Co-Founder
- Served as Assistant Professor of Child Psychiatric Nursing @ Yale School of Nursing (1976-1982) as well as Child Psychiatric Nursing Track Coordinator (NASSSN Brief Bio and Campaign Statements, 1979, Burst, H.V. (2013). Yale School of Nursing Celebrating 90 years of Excellence. Retrieved from https://core.ac.uk/download/232765997.pdf).

Final Thoughts

It is my firm belief that both consumers and health professionals should be involved in identifying health care needs and services; in defining quality of care and in deciding how best these services can be delivered. In the case of Hispanics, there are obvious bilingual and bicutural considerations which must be addressed in order to plan effectively. I am convinced thatrHispanic nurses are in a unique position to help articulate needs and to creatively design health care systems with Hispanics in the now underserved, growing population. However, an effective impact on a large scale can also be made at the decision-making level by those with political clout and savy. It therefore behooves us to set up our organizational priorities. The organization must first serve its members (NASSSN Brief Bio and Campaign Statements,(1979). Retrieved from NAHN Archived material @ Barbara Bates Center for the History of Nursing @ UPENN).





Ildaura Murillo Rohde, PhD, RN, FAAN Charter President 1976-1979 & 1979-1980

Key Inititatives/Achievements

- Chartered NAHN
- First Hispanic Nurse to be recognized as a Living Legend by the American Academy of Nursing at the Inaugural Living Legends Ceremony in 1991
- Named permanent United Nations Representative to UNICEF for the National Federation of Business and Professional women.

Inspiration

"I saw that I was the only Hispanic nurse who was going to Washington to work with the federal government, review research and education grants, etc.," Murillo-Rohde later noted. "I looked behind me and thought: 'Where are my people?' (Portillo, 2013).





The NAGA Times



National Association of Spanish Speaking Spanish Surnamed Nurses

FOUNDERS

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Texas

MIRIAM (MIMI) GONZALEZ New York

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HENRIETTA VILLAESCUSA California

> ELOISA TAMEZ Texas



On June 11th, 1974, the Ad hoc Committee of the Spanish Speaking/Spanish Surnamed Nurses' Caucus was formed during the American Nurses' Association Convention in San Francisco, California. This organization became the National Association of Spanish Speaking/Spanish Surnamed Nurses on June 8, 1976, in Atlantic City, New Jersey. In 1979, the name was changed to the National Association of Hispanic Nurses, Inc. (NAHN).

Author Unknown
Retrieved from Ildaura Murillo Rohde archived collection
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Nuring

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San Antonio, TX

National Association of Hispanic Nurses

What Led to MUHMs Formation

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Maria Vela, R. N. California

NEWSLETTER

September 1975.

Greetings! I assume we are all back to our jobs after the summer vacations. Some of us were busy even in summer working on some of the programs of ANA. Personally I was involved in the work of the Affirmative Action Task Force. I can tell you that we are proceeding with plans for a Commission on Human Rights which will look after the needs minority group consumer and providers and that ANA makes a reality its commitment to affirmative action and make sure that minority nurses are part of the staff, appointed and elected positions

in ANA. We are going to need the support of every state delegate to the Biennial Convention in Atlantic City to have the House of Delegates approve the creation of the Commission. Try to have the Spanish speaking nurses nurses as delegates whenever possible. Also let your state delegates know that you want them to vote for the Commission on Human rights. This Commission will not only look after the rights of ethnic minority nurses but the human rights of all ANA members regardless of race, creed, sex, nationality or life style. Therefore, all members of the organization will benefit from the work of the Commission. -I became aware that the Ombudsman has an Ombudsman Committee to advise him, and in it other minorities are well represented there is no Spanish speaking nurse. I discussed this with the Ombudsman and the Affiramtive Action Task Force. I have also sent a letter to Dr. Eileen Jacobi, Executive Director of ANA registering our disatisfaction with this situation as asking that a Spanish speaking nurse be added to this committee. I will keep you informed of developments. I have also asked that efforts be directed toward trying to hire Spanish speaking people, including nurses, in staff of ANA. I understand there are several vacancies in the staff right now. We need Spanish speaking people at the decisionmaking level of ANA. - As you know the 1976 Convenition in Atlantic City coincides with the Bicentennial Celbretion. There are a number of minority groups, one of them the American Indians, who are not going to celebrate the Bicentennial. In addition I have been told that Indian nurses will challenge the sitting of the delagations from Arizone and New Mexico, I have not been able to confirm this and I would appreciated if those of you from those states investigate this and let me know. - It is also very possible that a minority group nurse will be nominated for president of ANA. We all need to get behind this person because she is an excellent and well qualified professional who knows the structure and functioning of the organization well. She has served in many committees, Board of Director and Officer of ANA. As soon as I know more definite details I will pass them on to you. for you to be very seriously thinking which way should we go as Spanish Speaking-Spanish Surnamed Nurses' Caucus. We will meet again during the Convention in Atlantic City and this will have to be decided. The overwhelming majority of communications I have received from you seems to favor for us to form an association of our own. However, there is a very strong voice from one of our prominent members who feels that we should not splinter into another organization. But whatever we decide in Atlantic City it seems to me there need to be there should be election of officers and more involvement of our members in this struggle. I know all of you are in favor of it, but more of us need to work en la lucha! - Please send me your curriculum vitae with your area of expertise and interest, I want to send as many names to ANA as possible for appointed, and elected offices. But I need your c.v. for them to let them know your experience and qualifications for office purposes. - Please continue to give me feedback and any ideas you have that can help our cause. I am looking forward to hearing from you! Ildaura Murillo-Rohde