



# La Voz

Newsletter of the National Organization of Professional Hispanic  
Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees

January 2004

## A Message from Vice President Carmen Diaz

### Inside this issue:

A Message from the Vice President

Pay Your Membership Dues for 2004

International Poultry Exposition

The Holiday Season is finally over! I must admit that it was fun for us here at the Diaz/Hernandez home. But, with all of the frenzied activities that go with the holiday season, I for one am glad that it is over.

Now, as I contemplate the New Year, I can't help but look back at 2003 and say thanks to the entire membership. We had a good year and I hope that all of you feel as good as I do.

First of all, I want to recognize all of you that did such an outstanding job in putting together a very successful Training Conference in Iowa. **Leroy Brown**, state conservationist in Iowa and **Rosabeth Garcia-Sais**, contracting officer in Wisconsin, and all of the members in the Midwest Region promised us a treat and it was certainly that. We succeeded as an organization in providing excellent training to our members, and the National Council thanks those members for a job well done.

With that meeting behind us, we would be remiss if we did not thank the former members of the National Council who

made key decisions to help NOPHNRCSE continue to move forward. These council members included **Eddie Garcia**, vice president; **Carmella Apocada-Irwin**; secretary; and **Connie Ramirez**, treasurer. This also included regional representatives **Livia Marquez**, southeast region and **Tony Garcia**, south central region. Working in tandem with the National Council were the former Committee Chairs. They were **Sonny Vela**, membership committee; **Rich Steward** and **Rosabeth Garcia-Sais**, 2003 conference planning; **Edwin Almodovar**, constitution and bylaws; **Tish Espinosa**, historically Hispanic colleges; and **Ray Sisneros**, ways and means.

To all of the aforementioned — a big round of applause for their leadership, commitment and support NOPHNRCSE in the year 2003!

But now it's January 2004 and my New Year's resolution is to do everything I can to make this a banner year for NOPHNRCSE. To do that, I need your help!

In looking ahead to 2004, we have already made a commitment to hold the 2004 Training Conference in beautiful downtown Sacramento, California. The conference is scheduled in June 22-24 and the theme is "Bringing Diversity to the Nation's Conservation Needs." **Carmen Ortiz** from California and **Javier Ruiz** from Texas are the 2004 Planning Conference Chairs. They are working very hard and a preliminary overview of the program promises to make the training another great success.

**Mario Morales**, RC&D coordinator in south Texas is now a new member on your National Council. Mario volunteered and was later appointed by the President to serve as secretary, to finish the term vacated by Carmella Apocada. Additionally, we now have new chairs that have graciously volunteered to serve as committee chairs for the historically Hispanic colleges committee and membership committee. This includes **Sylvia Jenkins** and **Rachel Lopez**, respectively. We really appreciate their willingness to step up

*Continued on page 2*



## A Message from Vice President Carmen Diaz, cont.

to the plate and offer their assistance in leading these committees.

There are, however, still several other vacancies and we really do need your help in filling if we are going to be successful in getting the business of NOPHNCSE done. These vacant committee chairs include those for the ways and means committee and the constitution and bylaws committee. If any of you are interested in providing leadership for these two very important committees, I would encourage you to contact your regional representative and let them know which committee you would prefer. We also need volunteers to help as members of these and other committees. If you simply want to help, but do not have time to chair a committee, contact the

committee chair of the committee you are interested in. I am sure that they will appreciate your help!

Bottom line, folks — we need your help! As all of you know, an organization is only as strong as its membership wants it to be. I know that all of you want to ensure that NOPHNCSE continues to be a strong advocate for you, but to do that we must all be willing to roll up our sleeves, put our shoulders to the wheel and work hard to continue to make NOPHNCSE successful for us. I am confident that you will want to help.

As an additional side note, I want to remind everyone that it is time to renew your membership if you have not done so already. This is especially important as

elections are just around the corner and we must all be members in good standing in order to participate. This includes, voting, nominating or running for a position on the National Council.

With that, I want to tell everyone that I truly value and feel very honored to have the opportunity to serve as your vice president. I look forward to working with all of you to endeavor towards “UN MUY PROSPERO Y PRODUCTIVO 2004”!

## Other Tidbits

### Retirees

On January 3, Christine Pytel, Special Assistant to the Chief

On January 10, Luis Vazquez, Financial Management Division

### Deputy State Cons

The following were selected for deputy state conservationists' developmental positions:

Xavier Montoya, Indiana  
Febe Ortiz, Tennessee  
Carlos Suarez, Nebraska

### Addresses Needed

The scholarship committee requests that you send names and addresses of high schools and colleges in your state that have a Hispanic population so we can deliver our scholarship information for 2004 to a wider audience. Please email the information to Sharyn Alvarez or Adolfo Diaz. Thank you.

Membership forms are available on-line at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/hispanic/>.

## It's That Time of Year Again

*By Rachel Lopez,  
Membership Chair*

The 2003 membership dues expire on December 31, 2003. It is important that we pay our annual dues to our organization. These dues help cover the cost for our 2004 conference scheduled June 22-24, 2004, in Sacramento, California.

There are two forms of payment: 1) submitting a check for the amount of the membership you choose along with a completed membership form, or 2) by payroll deduction. Form AD-1054

- Request for Payroll Deductions is also available with the membership form. Please remember that I still need a completed membership form and a copy of AD-1054, if you choose option 2.

Membership forms are available on-line at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/hispanic/>.

As 2003 comes to a close and we near 2004, I hope that the New Year provides you with good health, success and lasting friendships!



## NOPHNRCSE's New Partnership with Poultry Water Quality Consortium for the 2004 International Poultry Exposition

By Jose Pagan, Georgia

The 56<sup>th</sup> International Poultry Exposition will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, January 28-30, 2004.

Exhibitors will showcase their products and services on 16 acres inside the Georgia World Congress Center. The Poultry Water Quality Consortium, a partnership between EPA, NRCS, TVA and U.S. Poultry and Egg Association for promoting water quality in the poultry industry, will have an exhibit at the show. The exhibit focuses on management of poultry

The 2003 International Poultry Exposition had 880 exhibitors and 19,173 attendees from 49 states, Puerto Rico, Washington, D.C., and 89 countries.

mortality, manure and litter management, nutrient management, and wastewater management. This exhibit will be located in the new north side drive entrance of the center. This building is the phase IV expansion or building C whose lobby is more than 1,000 feet long, 80 feet wide and more than 90 feet high, making it large enough to house the Titanic, if it was available.

This is a tremendous opportunity for NOPHNRCSE members to observe new technology in the poultry industry. Educational programs featuring cutting-edge topics will be held on Thursday, January 29. For more information on the EXPO and U.S. Poultry and Egg Association you may check out their website at [www.poultryegg.org](http://www.poultryegg.org).

Employees who are fluent in Spanish, who work with poultry producers are needed to staff this booth, as well as individuals fluent in other languages, since there are generally over 4,000 foreign visitors.

In the past, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Georgia, Mississippi, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, Texas, and Tennessee

NRCS state conservationists and the director of the Caribbean Area have been very supportive of this effort. Individuals that have assisted included: engineers, district conservationists, field operation assistants, soil conservationists, RC&D coordinators, technicians, regional office staff, state office staff, and district employees. Attendance to the show has to be financed by the employee's home state.

The 2003 International Poultry Exposition, the largest such poultry event in the world, served as a meeting place for 880 exhibitors and approximately 19,173 attendees from 49 states, Puerto Rico, Washington, D.C., and 89 countries.

Individuals interested in helping staff the consortium's booth must get approval from their state office and submit their names to Larry Goff, NRCS liaison to the consortium, no later than January 8, 2004, so they can be registered with the Exposition.

If you have any questions, please call Larry at (423) 855-6470, Fax (423) 855-6607, [larry.goff@tn.usda.gov](mailto:larry.goff@tn.usda.gov) or contact Jose Pagan, Partnership Committee Chair, at (770) 267-8363 x3, e-mail [jose.pagan@ga.usda.gov](mailto:jose.pagan@ga.usda.gov).

