

CALIFORNIA LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS (CA LULAC)  
COPH OHP\_255



Center for Oral and Public History  
California State University, Fullerton

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## **Descriptive Summary**

### **Title**

California League of United Latin American Citizens (CA LULAC) [OHP 255]

### **Date(s)**

2012 – present.

### **Creator**

The Center for Oral and Public History (COPH)  
The Orange County LULAC Foundation (OCLF)

### **Extent**

Eight (8) oral histories. Seven (7) narrators.

### **Collateral:**

LULAC California State Directors' Papers  
[Located in project file]

### **Repository**

Center for Oral and Public History  
California State University, Fullerton

### **Project Abstract**

This project is a compilation of oral histories with men and women who have played significant roles in the history of California LULAC.

**Narrators:**

Frederick Aguirre

Lupe Gutierrez

Charlotte DeVaul

Yvonne Duncan

Susie Flores

William Melendez

Joe Ocampo

## CA LULAC Oral History Project

### OH 5045.2

**Narrator:** Duncan, Yvonne (b. 1946)  
**Interviewer:** Natalie Navar  
**Title:** “An Oral History with Yvonne Duncan”  
**Date:** September 1, 2014  
**Language:** English  
**Location:** Rowland Heights, California  
**Project:** California League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

**Status:** completed; 24 pages

An oral history with Yvonne Duncan, resident of Huntington Beach, California, and member of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). This interview was conducted as part of the California League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Duncan’s experiences in LULAC. Specifically, this interview talks about Duncan’s childhood in Chicago, Illinois, and being raised by a single mother; shares how her parents met; speaks about reconnecting with her dad in Mexico at age 17; explains why her mother and grandparents came to the United States; describes her mother’s involvement with Hull House (Chicago) and LULAC in the 1960s; talks about the stigma of being on welfare and experiencing racial discrimination in Chicago; comments on her involvement with the War on Poverty and how she met her husband; reflects on her childhood role models and why she desired to be a housewife; talks about her educational background; comments on being a United States Marine Corps officer’s wife and why she liked the military lifestyle; remembers seeing remnants of racial discrimination in Cherry Point, North Carolina in the late 1960s; explains why she joined LULAC and how she became president of the Anaheim, California Council; speaks about LULAC’s national objectives and organizational structure; explains how she became involved with grant writing and the importance of scholarships and educational grants to young Mexican-Americans; recalls receiving the 2013 LULAC Woman of the Year award; shares how she stays motivated with LULAC and her other volunteer activities; talks about why women should be leaders and activists; and finally, reflects on how LULAC has influenced her life.

**OH 5366****Narrator:** Meléndez, William (b. 1930)**Interviewer:** Patricia Prestinary**Title:** “An Oral History with William Meléndez”**Date:** March 22, 2014**Language:** English**Location:** Monterey, California**Project:** California League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)**Status:** completed; 17 pages

An oral history with William Meléndez, resident of Monterey, California, and former member/state director of the the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). This interview was conducted as part of the California League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Meléndez’s experiences in LULAC. Specifically, Meléndez describes the differences in LULAC Councils in Monterey vs Monterrey; comments on how his fair skin affected the ethnic classification on his birth certificate; briefly talks about his educational background and acceptance to the Hebrew Technical Institute; recalls his activist roots and why he joined LULAC; talks about how the Mexican-American population accepted him as a fair-skinned Puerto Rican; discusses the social and political climate of Monterey County in 1970s; comments on how the teaching profession influenced his activism including championing bilingual education; shares about LULAC scholarship programs; discusses importance of Latino elected officials and how he met César Chavez; talks about his tenure as California LULAC state director and challenges with the organizational structure; recalls receiving the 1990 Man of the Year award; shares why he preferred working with LULAC on the local level; talks about his work with civil rights in Monterey County, including advocating for policeman Ralph Serrano, and his involvement with playwright Luis Valdez (Zoot Suit Musical); comments on the future of LULAC membership; describes his life in retirement; and finally, comments on how LULAC members react to people like Meléndez who have benefited from higher education.

**OH 5442****Narrator:** DeVaul, Charlotte (b. 1934)**Interviewer:** Natalie Navar**Title:** “An Oral History with Charlotte DeVaul”**Date:** July 23, 2014**Language:** English**Location:** Newport Beach, California**Project:** California League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)**Status:** completed; 19 pages

An oral history with Charlotte DeVaul, resident of Anaheim, California, and member of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). This interview was conducted as part of the California League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about DeVaul’s experiences in LULAC. Specifically, this interview talks about DeVaul’s childhood in Fullerton, California, schools, and employment; comments on her parents job history and restaurant ownership; shares how she met her husband; talks about racial discrimination in Orange County; explains why she joined LULAC; comments on the Puerto Rican influence in the organizational leadership and how it affected the 2014 National Convention; challenges with speaking Spanish as a second language; speaks about her involvement with the Anaheim LULAC Council and their success with the Ford Foundation Driving Dreams through Education Grant; recalls receiving the 1997 LULAC Woman of the Year award; shares how she stays motivated with LULAC and her other volunteer activities; talks about why women should be leaders and activists; and finally, reflects on how LULAC has influenced her life.

**OH 5512**

**Narrator:** Frederick Aguirre (b. 1946)  
**Interviewer:** Natalie Navar  
**Title:** “An Oral History with Frederick Aguirre”  
**Date:** November 1, 2014  
**Language:** English  
**Location:** Fullerton, California  
**Project:** California League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

**Status:** edited; 69 pages

This oral history spans 1946-2014. Bulk dates: 1953-2014.

An oral history with Frederick Aguirre, resident of Villa Park, California, judge of the Superior Court of Orange County, Mexican-American activist, and member of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). This interview was conducted as part of the California League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Aguirre’s experiences in LULAC. Specifically, this interview talks about Aguirre’s childhood in Placentia, California; describes his father’s wartime experience (World War II); explains how his parents’ generation faced discrimination in their local communities; recalls his school years and being elected class president; describes how his parents met; why his dad was his role model; explains why he wanted to become a lawyer and attending USC/UCLA; describes his college externship with the Justice Department; shares how he met his wife; talks about his lifelong involvement with LULAC including: attending meetings as a child, how the meetings were structured, and his role in Junior LULAC; reflects on how LULAC has changed since his childhood and how the organization could improve its national image; talks about founding the Hispanic Education Endowment Fund (HEEF) and the Hispanic Bar Association; reflects on how his parents experience with discrimination motivated personal activism; talks about his reaction to Proposition 187 and the immigration debate; reflects on his appointment as judge of the Superior Court of Orange County; shares how he balances his work/home life; compares how men and women lead; reflects on ways activism has shaped his life and being recognized by Latino Leaders Magazine; explains why he created the Leadership Academy and how it benefits the local community; talks about the Placentia LULAC Council including: how the council started, fundraising activities, key supporters, and involvement with 1956 Olympics; explains how the Placentia School District was integrated; offers advice to aspiring activists; recalls interactions with Pat Brown and Jerry Brown; and finally, talks about documenting Mexican-American wartime experiences through the American Patriots of Latino Heritage organization.