



# 2009 THE GREATER QUAD CITIES HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Just 15 months since it first met, the Greater Quad Cities Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is seeing positive results within the Latino business community. "I am pleased to say it has been on schedule in meeting our expectations and goals to further the growth of Hispanic business and the contributions made to the economic vitality of our community." Chamber founder and chairman Bob Ontiveros recently wrote to the board.

Members and supporters of the new chamber will gather Thursday night in Moline to celebrate the group's first year. Later this month, it will open an office at 511 17th St., Moline, with a part time manager. The group first met Oct. 14, 2008, at Stern Beverage in Milan. Mr. Ontiveros, also founder &

chairman of Group O, Inc. in Milan - started the chamber in part because of the benefits he gained by joining the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

"The greatest benefit is, Hispanic - owned business and Latinos are uniting, finally starting to work together to help ourselves better not only our businesses, but the community as well." chamber vice-chairman Greg Aguilar said.

"It's surprising that it took off a lot faster than we thought," he said, noting that the Hispanic community was ready to bond like this. Monthly networking and business education events are also invaluable for members, said Mr. Aguilar, community development coordinator for Ascentra

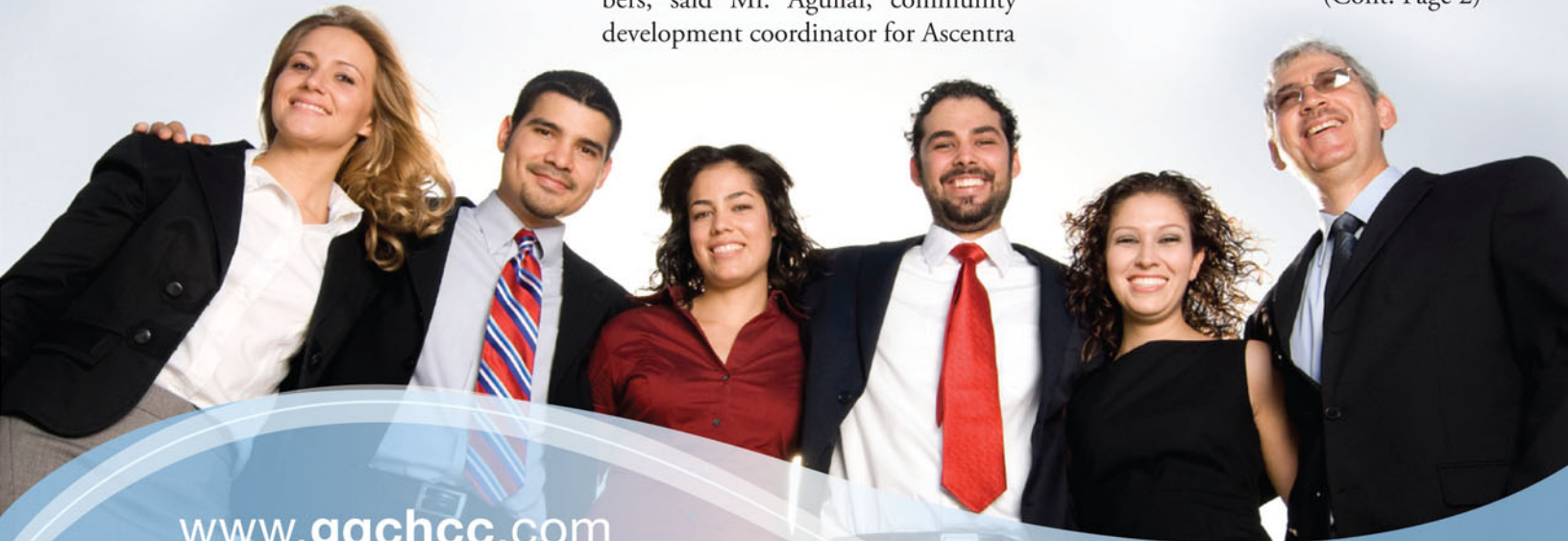
Credit Union, a gold member of the chamber.

"We're finally starting to network with each other," he said. "It helps the business. Hopefully, you can raise your profit. expand, hire more people and create more opportunities for the Quad Cities.

"For 2010, we really want to produce more educational opportunities to better their businesses." Mr. Aguilar said, adding that there have been workshops so far on marketing, advertising and accounting.

The chamber wants to provide expert counseling on all matters related to business: planning, financing, management, marketing and advertising.

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**THE GREATER  
QUAD CITIES  
HISPANIC  
CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE**

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**GRAPHIC DESIGN:**

Rafael Gonzales  
Enrique Sandoval Jr.



**GQCHCC Office  
in Moline, IL**

(Cont. from Cover)

It has developed partnerships with Black Hawk College's Small Business Development Center, Business Training Center, International Trade Center and Illinois Procurement Technical Assistance Center to help members.

The new chamber's value is "the opportunity for different businesses to get together, to share their successes and their challenges," Ascentra CEO, Paul Lensmeyer said. Also, an awareness among the community of products and services they make available.

"It's important not just for the Hispanic community, but the general public as a whole," he said, adding that Ascentra has bilingual staff in each of its five credit unions because of the growing Hispanic population.

"This is a win-win situation," said Mr. Lensmeyer. Businesses can access information they need and help promote themselves more effectively, he said. "It's really getting our name out."

"I love it," said Virginia Castro. She and her husband, Alfredo, own El Mariachi restaurant, 1317 15th Street, Moline. They've been chamber members since it began "It's brought me business." Mrs. Castro said. "I made a lot of contacts, met a lot of good people there. It's helped me be more involved in the community, and it's helping the community also with fundraisers, different things.

"I think the networking is what helps me, meeting people you're actually going to do

business with," she said. "We give each other suggestions. I feel we're getting more united than before, getting to know other people in similar businesses. You need to drum up more business to keep going."

"The biggest benefit is, it opens a bridge to Latino business owners, which has been a segment that is very hard to reach by regular chambers," said board member Tarsicio Macias, publisher of the bilingual newspaper *Hola America*.

"Big corporations can tap into this, business owners can have opportunities by networking, looking for a diverse work force," he said. While some Hispanic businesses also are members of the main Illinois and Iowa QC chambers, many are not because of an "intimidation factor," Mr. Macias said.

"Because it's a Hispanic chamber it's a little more embracing to their culture. to their needs," he said. "They find it less intimidating. They can relate better."

He said he hopes the chamber can help Latino businesses better assimilate into the mainstream, and a new office manager will be a great help.

Mr. Aguilar said the public and other companies benefit from the Hispanic chamber by having an accessible directory businesses can use. There currently is an online directory with a printed directory in the works, he said.

Article taken from the January 20 issue of the Moline Dispatch, written by Jonathan Turner



# A letter from Robert Ontiveros

It was a pleasure to Chair the formation of our new Greater Quad Cities Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Many have said "Why Do we need another Chamber?," my friends we needed to make our community aware of the growing Hispanic Business Owners and their contributions to the job market and overall growth of our local communities in a very significant way.

As we reached out to the Hispanic Business owners and general market businesses this past year we had an overwhelming response, that validated we did need a Hispanic Chamber, a Chamber that would be responsive to small business needs and would provide networking and training opportunities to access contracts, financing, and capital.

Our Greater Quad Cities Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is proud that we were able to organize our Charter with proper documents for a 501-6 C with the State of Illinois, and at the same time became an

Affiliate of the Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce which represents over 1400 Hispanic Business Owners in the State of Illinois.

This first year was one of organization, starting with a Board of Directors, Financial controls with an outside accounting firm; created a very recognizable logo and brand: created a website for our sponsors and members, and best of all added over 70 members with a solid base that includes all the Municipalities on the Illinois side of the river, and all the Colleges and Universities in the Quad Cities, and many Credit Unions, Banks, and Insurance Companies that want to access the growing Hispanic market. Best of all we added over 60 Hispanic Business Owners that see the chamber as their Advocacy, and a way for them to build capacity to grow their businesses.

As we look to the future, the 2010 census looms large for our Hispanic Chamber to

make sure that all of our residents are counted, and for our local municipalities to help in this extremely important program. It represents the share we will receive back to our communities, and as your Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, we will work hard to make sure that all that can be counted will be.

As we move forward please look at our membership and see if they can provide a service, or product, we are more than Chips n Salsa, we are your Tax Paying Neighbors.

Respectfully

Robert Ontiveros;  
Chairperson

So you enjoy the GQCHCC events? Look for even more in this year!

**THE GREATER QUAD CITIES HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
Invites you to:  
**Finding Resources for Small Business**  
Learn about several funding resources in both State and Federal either to start or to grow your business.  
Tuesday, June 23rd, 6-8 p.m.  
at The Metro Center  
100 River Drive, 1st Floor, 1st Floor, Suite 100  
Sponsors:  
Danae Staff (Black Hawk College, West and Ann Handman (SCC, Iowa)  
\$10 paid members, \$20 non-members  
To RSVP, call Nancy Perkins at 764-8115

**THE GREATER QUAD CITIES HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
Invites you to:  
**Join Us for Fun, Networking and New Membership Drive**  
River House Bar & Grill (upstairs)  
1300 River Drive Moline  
Thursday August 20  
5-8 p.m. Networking Social  
6-7 p.m. Guest Speaker  
\$10 paid members  
\$20 non-members  
Guest Speaker  
Paul M. Nagovan II  
Topic: The Do's and Don't's of a Small Business  
To RSVP, Please Call  
Dennis Schunk, Jr. at 764-8115

**THE GREATER QUAD CITIES HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
Join Us for a...  
**Night at the Museum**  
& sneak peak of  
**Day of the Dead Exhibit**  
Putnam Museum/Imax Theatre  
1717 West 1st Street, Davenport, IA  
Thursday, October 22nd  
6-8 pm Networking Social  
Food provided by Hy-Vee

**THE GREATER QUAD CITIES HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
night with the...  
**MALLARDS**  
Saturday, November 7th  
Vs. Muskegon @ the i-wireless Center  
825 per ticket for VIP Seating & Beer, Puck drops @ 7:00pm  
For tickets call Matt Sherfield: (309)277-1318  
Contact Dennis: (309)721-9072, dennis@qchcc.com

**THE GREATER QUAD CITIES HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
Celebrate a Greater Quad Cities Hispanic Chamber "Networking Navidad" & join us in helping those in need this Holiday!  
Proceeds from this special event will benefit the Dispatch Good Fellow & Argus Santa Fund.  
Wednesday - December 9th  
From 5:30 to 7:30pm at Icons  
Icons in the District, 124 1/2 St., Rock Island, IL  
Cost is \$10 for Members & \$20 for Non-Members. Cost is \$10 for Members & \$20 for Non-Members. Cost is \$10 for Members & \$20 for Non-Members.

# Thank you to all our members...

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|--------------------------------|--|--|
| A+ Plumbing                    | Emeric Solymossy                           | Ruhl & Ruhl Realators Kathy Dahl             |
| Aflac: Christina Ward          | Family Resources Inc                       | Skyline Inn                                  |
| Allison Plumbing, Heating & AC | First Midwest Bank                         | St. Ambrose University                       |
| American Cancer Society        | Gold Key Auto Inc                          | State Farm Insurance                         |
| American Family Insurance      | Group O, Inc.                              | Stern Beverage Inc                           |
| American Red Cross             | Hanson Watson Associates                   | Titas Linens by Claudia                      |
| Aries Insurance                | HLS Veterinary Biological Products Inc.    | Terrostar                                    |
| Ascentra Credit Union          | Hola America                               | THE National Bank                            |
| Augustana College              | Hy-Vee Moline #2                           | Trinity College of Nursing & Health Sciences |
| Azteca #2                      | IH Mississippi Valley Credit Union         | United Contracting Inc.                      |
| BCT Unlimited                  | Iowa, Illinois Termite & Pest Control, Inc | United Health Care                           |
| Black Hawk College             | Isle Casino & Hotel Bettendorf             | University of Illinois Extension             |
| Bush Construction Company Inc. | Kaaba Shriners                             | Viva TV                                      |
| Campos Mufflers                | Latino Connection                          | West Gateway Partners L.L.C                  |
| Carmen's Jewelry               | Marriage and Family Counseling Service     | Western Illinois University Quad Cities      |
| Casa Guanajuato                | Mathews Office Plus                        | Zegllins Home TV & Appliances Inc.           |
| City of East Moline            | Metro Link                                 | Zertuche's One Stop Auto                     |
| City of Moline                 | Our Lady Of Guadalupe                      |  |
| City of Rock Island            | Project Now                                | <i>Associate Members...</i>                  |
| City of Silvis                 | Putnam Museum/ Imax Theatre                | Emerid Solymossy                             |
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| Cuatro Services Inc            | QC Mex-Amer Organization                   | Maria Meir Llaca                             |
| DHCU Community Credit Union    | Quad City Internationa Airport             | Norma Nunez Kauzlarich                       |
| Eastern Iowa Community College | QC Convention & Visitor Bureau             | Zobeida G. Laufenberg                        |
| El Valle                       | Restaurante El Mariachi                    |  |
| Enlace Inc                     | Results Integrated Marketing               |  |

# and to all of our sponsors...

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