

# LAREDO CONFERENCE PROGRAM

## January 21-25, 2009



### United States/Mexico 46<sup>th</sup> Sister Cities Association Conference

Wednesday, January 21  
2:00 – 8:00 pm

Check-in at Conference Hotel Holiday Inn  
Delegates Registration – USMSCA registration desk

Thursday, January 22  
10:00 – 11:00 am

USMSCA National Board Meeting – Mezzanine Meeting Room at the Holiday Inn

2:00 pm

Buses leave Holiday Inn for Nuevo Laredo Tour

2:30 pm

Mercado Nuevo Laredo – music with conjunto Norteño, visit Plaza Juarez with music by the Municipal Band, visit Santo Niño Church, visit Marti's

3:30 pm

Visit Train Station (Estacion Palabra)

5:00 pm

Special presentation at el Cortujo "La Herradura"  
Welcome by Nuevo Laredo Mayor Ramon Garza Barrios  
Regional music and dances  
Dinner

7:00 pm

Museum (Cultural Center)

8:00 pm

Concert – Philharmonic Orquestra from the Music School of the University of Mexico City (UNAM)

Friday, January 23

7:00 – 8:30 am

International Board Meeting

7:00 – 8:45 am

Delegates breakfast – tickets will be issued

9:00 – 10:30 am

Opening Ceremonies of the 7<sup>th</sup> International Sister Cities Expo  
Mayor and Council Members

Introduction of visiting Mayors and V.I.P. guests

Introduction of US/México Sister Cities President

Introduction of Mexico/US Sister Cities President

Introduction of US/México International Sister Cities President

10:30 – 12:00

Opening of Expo and visiting the exhibits

12:00 – 1:30 pm

Lunch and Keynote Speaker

Junji Imada – Asst. Director of Japan Local Government Center on the JET Program (Japan Exchange & Teaching) for youth

Introduction and crowning of the USMSCA Queen

2:00 – 3:00 pm

Workshop – US Customs Basic Regulations for imports

3:00 - 4:00 pm

Workshop – Basic Immigration Procedures for businesses

7:00 – 11:00 pm

Reception and Dinner

All participants: USMSCA, visiting dignitaries, and Expo exhibitors at Roli's Banquet Hall

Signing of Laredo sister cities agreements Los Herreras, Nuevo Leon; Escobedo, Nuevo Leon; Ciudad Valles, San Luis Potosi; Papantla, Veracruz and the signing of Big Spring, Texas with San Miguel el Alto, Jalisco

Saturday, January 24

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| 7:00 – 8:45 am  | Delegates breakfast   |
| 8:30 – 9:30 am  | Mayor's Breakfast (Invitation Only) – Mayor or one alternate  |
| 9:30 – 12:00    | Business Session<br>Explanation of voting procedures for amendments to By-Laws and nominations for Board of Directors.<br>Voting for six Directors to the Board.<br>Nominations from the floor and presentations of Cities bidding for the 2010 National conference.  |
| 11:00 – 12:00   | Short presentation on "World Mexico Sister Cities Association"<br>Presentation by Laredo Development Foundation at Holiday Inn Meeting Rooms - Mezzanine  |
| 12:00 – 2:00 pm | Luncheon and Keynote Speaker<br>Honorable U.S. Congressman Henry Cuellar<br>Music by Everardo Ramirez   |
| 2:00 – 3:00 pm  | Workshop – Agentes Aduanales - Mexican & American Customs Export Regulations  |
| 2:00 – 5:00 pm  | Fiesta Expo visitation or   |
| 2:00 – 5:00 pm  | Trolley to Mall del Norte for Shopping – from Civic Center  |
| 4:30 – 6:30 pm  | USMSCA National Board Reorganization meeting  |
| 7:30 pm         | Buses leave to Gala Dinner  |
| 8:00 – 11:30 pm | Reception and Gala Dinner Dance at the Laredo Police Officers Association Banquet Hall<br>USMSCA with spouses or guest and visiting youth<br>Speaker 8:30 pm – Michael Hyatt, Chairman of the Board, Sister Cities International<br>USMSCA Youth Awards Winners for 2009 scholarships<br>Introduction of the 2009 USMSCA Board of Directors |

Sunday, January 25

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| 7:00 – 9:00 am  | Delegates breakfast   |
| 9:30 – 11:30 am | Closing ceremony – Overview of workshops<br>Conference critique<br>Depart conference for home |