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*20 Years of Service to the  
Portuguese-American Community*

***Working Today for Our Community's Tomorrow***

*The Portuguese-American Leadership Council of the United States  
Established 1991*

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## **LUSUS**

The Monthly Newsletter of PALCUS  
March 2011

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### **Fernando Rosa reelected as Chairman of the Board**

At the recent meeting of the Board of Directors, Fernando Goncalves Rosa was reelected as Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Also elected as members of the Executive Committee were: Marie R. Fraley, as vice chairman, Angela Costa Simoes as secretary, Manuel Geraldo as Treasurer and Alda Petitti as Assistant Treasurer.

Directors are : Onesimo Almeida, Odete Amarelo, Antonio Gato, Jose Carlos Sousa, John Bento, Cynthia Marques and Pilar Coelho

Rosa, has been involved with PALCUS since 1995. He holds a BS in Accounting and serves as the Deputy Directors of HEDCo in Hartford, CT.

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## **Chairman Rosa travels to Washington DC and Manassas, VA**

Chairman Rosa spent time on Capitol Hill on Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> to meet with Portuguese-American Congressmen and the Ambassador of Portugal to Washington.

Meetings were held personally with **Congressman Dennis Cardoza** (CA-D), **Congressman Jim Costa** (CA-D), and the staff of **Congressman Devin Nunes**.

Chairman Rosa also visited the Portuguese Embassy on Massachusetts Avenue to meet with **Ambassador Nuno Brito** and **Social Counselor Jose Galaz**. He also got together with **Jim McGlinchey** the former coordinator and founder of the Portuguese American Citizenship Project.

After sunset Chairman Rosa along with DC member **Nuno Ricardo** hosted a networking event at Capitol City Brewery in Washington, DC. Several PALCUS members and prospective members attended to discuss issues of importance to the community in a convivial atmosphere.

On Friday, Chairman Rosa met over lunch with the newly elected president of the Manassas Portuguese Cultural Center, **Mrs. Vilaca**.

Topics of discussion during these meetings included:

1. the PALCUS Annual Leadership Awards Gala to take place on November 12, 2011 at the National Harbor in Maryland, chaired by PALCUS Director Manny Geraldo. Ambassador Nuno Brito, Congressmen Cardoza and Costa pledged to support the event and plan on attending;
2. Visa Waiver: the Ambassador and the Congressmen will watch for situations that may affect the continuation of this program that is so important to the Portuguese-American community;
3. the Ambassador and the Congressmen agreed that it was important to maintain an open dialogue with PALCUS for the benefit of the community;
4. plans for a PALCUS sponsored congressional reception in the summer of 2011;
5. plans for a welcome reception with Ambassador Nuno Brito of Portugal;
6. plans for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the Portuguese-American Elected Officials meeting;
7. PALCUS sponsored internships in the congressional offices;
8. the renewed registration of the Portuguese-American Caucus (see more below);
9. Ambassador Brito's plans to visit the communities;
10. plans to expand the activities surrounding the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala as "Portuguese Week" in Washington, DC. during November 8 - 13<sup>th</sup>;

11. ongoing discussions with the Portuguese-American Citizenship Project to hold their annual meeting in Washington, DC at the time of the gala instead of November 11<sup>th</sup> in California in order to facilitate dialogue and collaboration.

### **Portuguese American Caucus of the House of Representatives**

The registration of the House Portuguese-American Caucus has been renewed. While meeting with Congressman Cardoza, Chairman Rosa was informed that the registration of the Portuguese-American Caucus had just been completed with a staffer remarking, "I wanted to be sure that this was done by the time this meeting took place."

The Portuguese-American Caucus was established in 1995 with 38 congressmen. It was founded by **Congressman Patrick Kennedy** (RI-D) and co-chaired with **Congressman Richard Pombo** (CA-R) until Pombo left office.

Whether or not the caucus was registered through the years, Congressman Kennedy consistently continued in this leadership role until his retirement from Congress in January, 2011, according to former Kennedy staffer **Kimber Colton**. "Although we did not register the Portuguese American Caucus with the House Administration Committee for the 110th and 111th Congresses, the caucus was not disbanded. In particular, we had a Portuguese language initiative briefing in 2007 and a briefing on Portuguese and Cape Verdean immigration issues in 2008."

Evidence of the continuous activity of the caucus is found in the numerous initiatives it championed; for example, Dual Taxation Agreement (1996), the Visa Waiver Program (1999), sanctions against Indonesia regarding the violence in East Timor (1999), numerous Portuguese language initiatives including the attempt to add Portuguese to the College Board's SAT-II and Advanced Placement Curriculum (2005), the Portuguese Village at the Concordia Language Village in Minnesota (2008) and the fight on the House floor for the congressional grant supporting the new Institute for Portuguese and Lusophone World Studies at Rhode Island College (2007).

In his conversations with Congressmen Cardoza and Costa, Chairman Rosa discussed the advisability of shared leadership of the caucus with congressmen from the east coast and with both parties. The congressmen agreed to the proposal. The congressional districts with the largest Portuguese ancestry are Massachusetts District #4 (**Barney Frank, MA-D**) with over 120,000 and Rhode Island District #1 (**David Cicilline, RI-D**) with over 71,000 (American Community Survey, 2006-2009). PALCUS is following up with these discussions with the Congressmen Frank and Cicilline in order to strike a balanced leadership that is representative of the community.

PALCUS has also been in contact with the offices of **Senator Jack Reed (RI-D)**, regarding the continuation of his role as Democratic Chairman of the Friends of Portugal in the Senate.

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### **PALCUS in New York**

**Lauren Jezienicki**, PALCUS member, and a graduate student at Columbia Business

School, hosted a reception at Columbia University on Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> for **Dr. Basilio Horta** to meet the Portuguese American Students at Columbia Business School. Dr. Basilio Horta spoke for about an hour and half with questions from the students who appreciated the interaction. **Mrs. Alda Petitti**, PALCUS Director, attended event. Both **Mr. Rui Boavista** and Dr. Horta thanked PALCUS for hosting them last year and also for arranging this meeting with Columbia University.

#### **Marc Filipe Rosa**

, PALCUS member, attended the launch of AICEP Portugal Global's new campaign in the U.S., "**Portugal, Innovate with us**" on March 8, 2011 at the New York Times Conference Center in New York City. It featured the Chairman and CEO of AICEP Portugal Global, **Prof. Basilio Horta**, and the Ambassador of Portugal to the U.S., **His Excellency Nuno Brito**. Attended by over 100 guests, it highlighted innovative Portuguese products and services in key industries such as life sciences, IT, renewable energy, electric vehicle smart grids and infrastructure engineering.

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#### **Member Recognition**

##### **Congratulations to:**

**Mr. Pedro Belo** elected new chairman of the Board of the Portuguese American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey.

##### **Thank you!**

Our sincere thank to the San Jose Foundation for its support, through the efforts of PALCUS Council of 100 Members **John and Barbara Rebello**.

And to **Donzelina Barroso** of the J B Fernandes Memorial Trust and **Alberto Costa** of the Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center our sincere gratitude for their support of the PALCUS Internship Program for 2010.

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#### **SAVE THE DATE for the Annual PALCUS Leadership Awards Gala!**

The 20th Anniversary Leadership Awards Gala will be held on Saturday, November 12, 2011 in the Washington, D.C. area at [The Sunset Room at the National Harbor](#), and will be chaired by PALCUS founding member and current Treasurer, Manuel Geraldo. It will be a celebration of 20 years of service to the community.

For information on sponsorships or early purchase of tickets, please email [palcus@palcus.org](mailto:palcus@palcus.org) or call 202-466-4664.

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For daily news and information on events and all things Portuguese, subscribe to [Angela's List](#) on YahooGroups, officially sponsored by PALCUS.

### **PALCUS Mission**

In order to create a singular voice to advocate for the Portuguese American and Luso-American communities at large, the Portuguese American Leadership Council of the United States Inc. (PALCUS) was founded in 1991 as a 501 © 3 non partisan, non profit, organization headquartered in Washington D.C.

The PALCUS mission is to address domestic and international concerns of the Portuguese American Community.

The Council conducts an expanding program of educational and public affairs activities on issues of interest to the Portuguese American community and of salience to the Luso-American Relationship.

PALCUS is committed to serving the community through increasingly active government relations efforts, the promotion of a greater awareness of ethnic accomplishments and encouraging stronger ties between Portugal and the United States. In this role PALCUS advance the community professionally, politically and culturally while working to ensure that issues directly affecting our community are addressed through our network of government and community leaders.

PALCUS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia. Donations are tax deductible to extent allowed by law.

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