

DEMOCRATIC

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

1625 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 797-5900

Biographical Sketch of:

CARMELA G. LACAYO

Vice-Chairperson
Democratic National Committee

Executive Director
Asociacion Nacional

Born: June 28, 1943
Chihuahua, Mexico
U.S. Citizen

Education: B.A. Immaculate Heart College
Los Angeles, California

B.A. Regina Mundi International University
Rome, Italy

Carmela Lacayo's professional career is a history of involvement in programs dealing with social change. Carmela's dedication is characteristic of her entire family's commitment and leadership in social programs and politics.

In the early sixties Carmela joined the Sisters of Social Service, a Catholic Religious Congregation, and began her career of community service. Carmela became involved in diverse social welfare programs throughout California, ranging from senior citizen housing in Oakland, California to health clinics in Los Angeles. She organized, developed and administered a wide variety of projects, sharpening her executive skills for the challenges of the next decade. In addition, Carmela

[CA 1977]

has worked in the private sector developing the health maintenance organization concept for the delivery of health services to low income families. Her responsibilities included work with labor unions, private business groups, and serving as political liaison to Federal, State, and local political leaders.

In 1972 Carmela went to Colombia, South America, to help develop a social welfare and urban planning program for the University of St. Buena Ventura. Carmela returned to the U.S.A. and served Tom Bradley, the Mayor of Los Angeles, as Administrative Coordinator and liaison to the Hispanic community. She had overall responsibility for planning and implementing new human service programs through the Mayor's Office of Community Relations.

For the past 16 months Carmela has been the President and Executive Director of the Asociacion Nacional Pro Personas Mayores, the first National Organization to serve the Hispanic Elderly. Her concerns for the unmet needs of the Hispanic community led her to create the organization, developing all phases of fiscal, personnel, and administrative policies. Today, the Asociacion has five regional centers in the United States and provides technical assistance to States, local governmental bodies, and the Hispanic communities across the Nation.

During the Presidential Campaign of 1976, Carmela was an early and active supporter of Jimmy Carter. She served on both his California

Steering Committee and the Carter/Mondale National Steering Committee. Carmela was nominated by President Jimmy Carter on January 21, 1977 as Vice-Chairperson of the Democratic Party and unanimously elected by the Democratic National Committee. A recipient of many local, State, and National awards for community service, she was most recently selected as Latina Woman of the Year by the Spanish Speaking Media, in Los Angeles, California.

Ms. Lacayo is listed in:

- Who's Who in America
- Who's Who in American Politics
- Who's Who in the World of Women
- Outstanding Young Women of America