

La Voz de La Conexión



October 2021

La Voz, a Spanish term for “the voice,” is the monthly news digest for La Conexión and the La Conexión Immigrant Solidarity Committee (LC-ISC). The LC-ISC is a project of La Conexión to build solidarity and support to the local immigrant community in the community at-large.

Connect with us on Facebook

Like the La Conexión Immigrant Solidarity Committee on [Facebook](#) for up-to-date events and local and national news. Information about the La Conexión organization is provided on their [Facebook page](#) and [website](#).

La Conexión News

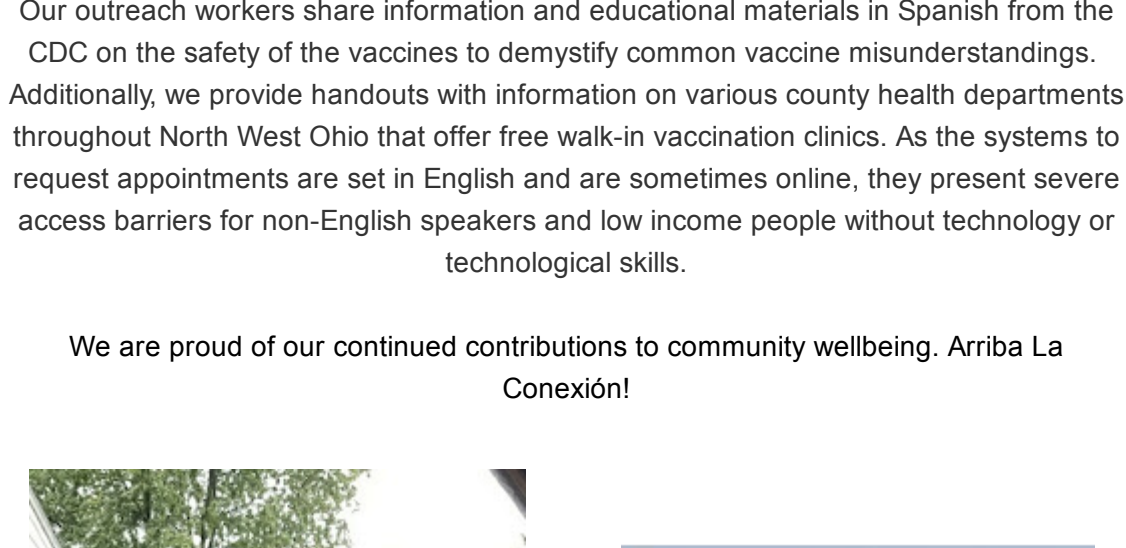
La Conexión organizes meeting with employers and congressional offices to discuss labor shortages and the need for immigration reform

On September 9, La Conexión, in collaboration with the NW Ohio Immigrant Rights Network and Welcome BG, organized a meeting with area employers and the NW Ohio congressional offices of Senators Portman and Brown as well as Representative Latta. Human resource managers and supervisors from different companies in the area indicated they have exhausted a variety of methods to get the workers they need, to no avail. While the average wage increase in a year might be 2-3%, some companies have increments of 11%. Bonuses of over \$1,000 just to sign up are common. Worker shortages common in agriculture now affect every industry. Prospects are not looking good for the region. BGSU demographer and Distinguished Professor of Sociology, Dr. Wendy Manning, indicated that the Census 2020 data shows a decline in population in Northwest Ohio. Population trends in the region show decreasing fertility and increasing mortality. In addition, people who are mostly of working age are leaving the region. As Dr. Manning indicated, “The major way the population of the region can grow is through increasing migration.” Advocates pressured congressional offices to take this sense of urgency to Washington and to act now by opening channels for immigration and documenting eligible workers already in the country. Because of the economic impact, there were efforts to include immigration reform provisions as a part of reconciliation, although they were unsuccessful.

For more information on this event, please follow this [link](#).



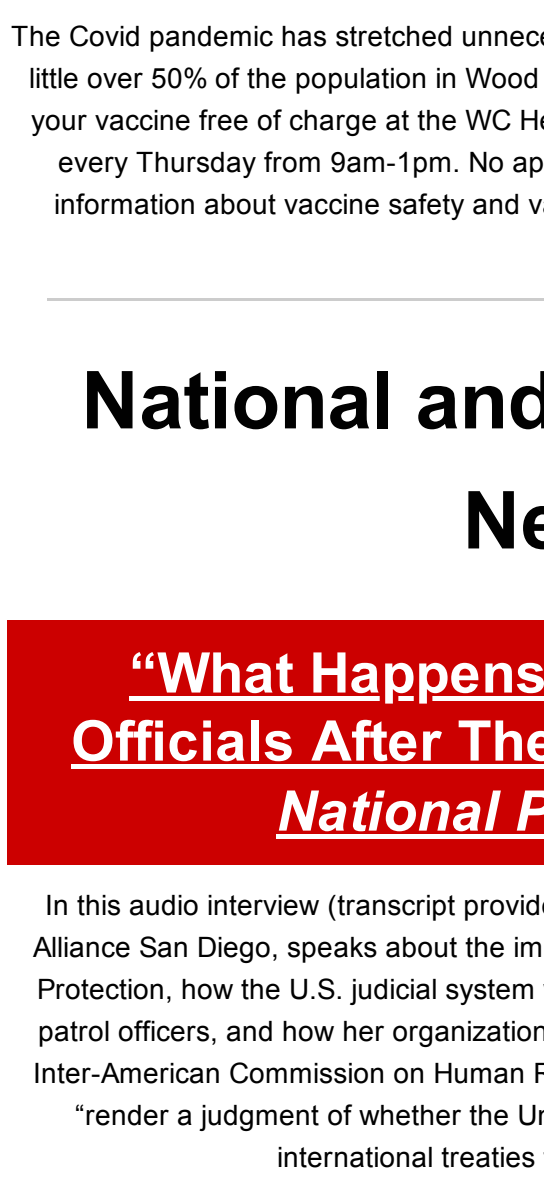
La Conexión continues distribution of relief funds and vaccine safety education to marginalized essential workers



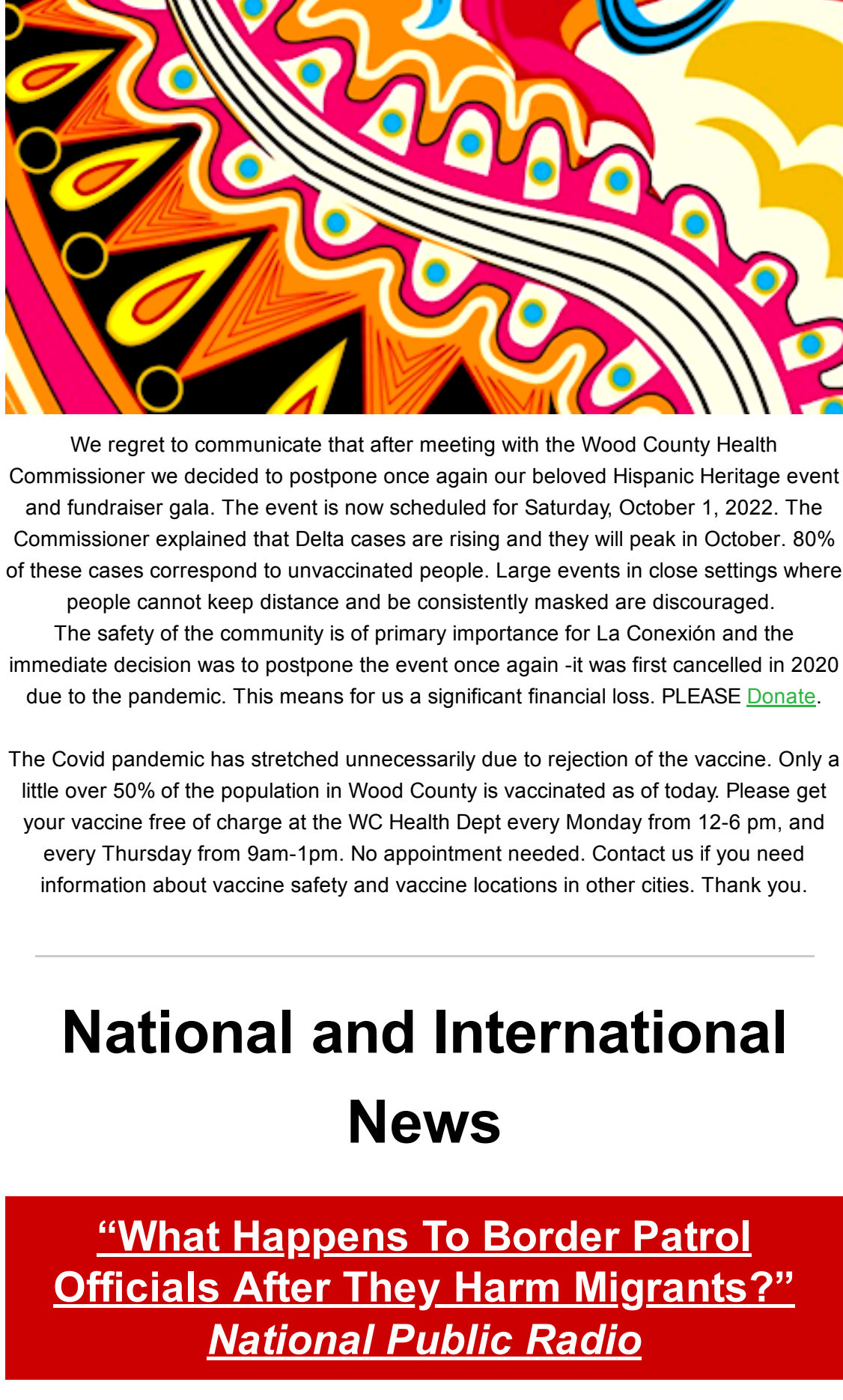
Some of the essential workers most affected by Covid have been the undocumented. Occupying unhealthy and poorly paid jobs in agriculture, cleaning services, food service, and others, they have been systematically excluded from relief assistance because of Congress' inability to recognize their humanity and contributions with legal documentation. Essential workers' labor is accepted but their rights and dignity are not? SHAME, SHAME, SHAME. Some States have used CARES or ARPA funding to build “excluded worker funds” to recognize these workers; thus far, this is not the case in Ohio.

Enter La Conexión, a small grassroots organization that has been making the effort to provide at least some relief to these workers since 2020. Currently, a grant from the Hispanic Federation is helping us stretch this help to workers of any industry who did not qualify for government assistance, such as unemployment and stimulus benefits. During the month of September, we were able to assist 130 families with \$100 gift cards, masks, and sanitation products, impacting an estimated number of 650 individuals. Another key component to our work through this grant is to combat vaccine hesitancy. Our outreach workers share information and educational materials in Spanish from the CDC on the safety of the vaccines to demystify common vaccine misunderstandings. Additionally, we provide handouts with information on various county health departments throughout North West Ohio that offer free walk-in vaccination clinics. As the systems to request appointments are set in English and are sometimes online, they present severe access barriers for non-English speakers and low income people without technology or technological skills.

We are proud of our continued contributions to community wellbeing. Arriba La Conexión!



Prioritizing community safety: Postponing Our annual Latinx/Hispanic Heritage event



We regret to communicate that after meeting with the Wood County Health Commissioner we decided to postpone once again our beloved Hispanic Heritage event and fundraiser gala. The event is now scheduled for Saturday, October 1, 2022. The Commissioner explained that Delta cases are rising and they will peak in October. 80% of these cases correspond to unvaccinated people. Large events in close settings where people cannot keep distance and be consistently masked are discouraged.

The safety of the community is of primary importance for La Conexión and the immediate decision was to postpone the event once again -it was first cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic. This means for us a significant financial loss. PLEASE [Donate](#).

The Covid pandemic has stretched unnecessarily due to rejection of the vaccine. Only a little over 50% of the population in Wood County is vaccinated as of today. Please get your vaccine free of charge at the WC Health Dept every Monday from 12-6 pm, and every Thursday from 9am-1pm. No appointment needed. Contact us if you need information about vaccine safety and vaccine locations in other cities. Thank you.

National and International News

“What Happens To Border Patrol Officials After They Harm Migrants?”

National Public Radio

In this audio interview (transcript provided), Andrea Guerrero, executive director of Alliance San Diego, speaks about the immunity and impunity of Customs and Border Protection, how the U.S. judicial system was intentionally designed to protect border patrol officers, and how her organization is bringing a murdered migrant case to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in the hopes that the Commission can “render a judgment of whether the United States has violated its obligations in international treaties to protect human rights.”

“Biden administration moves to preserve DACA after court ruling,”

The Hill

After a Texas court ruled that DACA was enacted unlawfully, thus blocking any future applicants, the Biden administration announced that they will recreate the program and address the concerns raised by the court.

“U.S. expels nearly 4,000 Haitians in 9 days as part of deportation blitz,”

CBS New

A majority of the Haitian migrants, many of whom are families, came from “South American nations and have not been in their homeland for years, exacerbating the disruption caused by the U.S. expulsions, said Giuseppe Loprete, the chief of mission for the Port-au-Prince-based chapter of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).”

“The families the child tax credit has left behind,”

Marketplace (start at minute 13:48)

This segment of the *Marketplace* episode reports on how many undocumented and Latina women did not receive the child tax credit why were promised due to an underfunded and overwhelmed IRS.

Become Involved with the La Conexión Immigrant Solidarity Committee

We are looking for additional volunteers who are interested in advocacy, educational programming, communications, and other tasks. Anyone interested in becoming involved, please contact: laconexionimmigrantsolidarity@gmail.com.

Giving to La Conexión

La Conexión, a 501(c)3 organization, can accept tax-deductible donations. You can donate through the Facebook page: look for the [blue “Donate” button](#). All proceeds benefit La Conexión. Facebook does not take a fee or any portion of the money.

Donations can also be made by mail at:
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