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## NORTH AMERICAN ACADEMY OF THE SPANISH LANGUAGE CONGRESS



### WHAT

North American Academy of the Spanish Language Press Conference

Under the motto “The Hispanic and Spanish language presence in the United States: unity in diversity”, the North American Academy of the Spanish Language ANLE, will celebrate its 40th anniversary

### WHERE

Library of Congress

101 Independence Ave SE, Washington 20540

### WHEN

June 6, 7 & 8, 2014



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WASHINGTON, DC—Under the motto “The Hispanic and Spanish language presence in the United States: unity in diversity”, the North American Academy of the Spanish Language ANLE, will celebrate its 40th anniversary from June 6th to 8th.

The Hispanic presence in culture, economics, history, language, politics, society and social media will be one of the important themes of this congress, organized by the Academy's delegation to Washington D.C.

The academic events will take place in the Library of Congress in Washington D.C., with additional activities taking place in the Cultural Institute of Mexico and the University Club of Washington.

Distinguished academicians from the United States, as well as Spain, Mexico, Canada, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Costa Rica, Italy, Spain, and Morocco will be participating in this conference. Over 80 speakers from a number of universities, including Yale, UCLA, Fordham, Wake Forest, University of Virginia, University of Texas, University of Wisconsin, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, University of Connecticut, California State University, Maryland University, Catholic University, NYU, and national universities from Costa Rica, Honduras, and Argentina, as well as cultural institutions, such as Instituto Cervantes, will be discussing the Hispanic presence in the economy, culture, history, language, literature, politics, and the media in the United States.

The President of the North American Academy of the Spanish Language's delegation in Washington D.C. and the conference host, *Luis Alberto Ambroggio* stated, “*This first ANLE conference celebrating the 40th anniversary of its foundation, is a historic event that we will have the honor of hosting in our nation's capital, the second largest Spanish speaking country in the world. Thomas Jefferson and Juan Ramón Jiménez would be at the party.*” Thomas Jefferson, one of the nation's founding fathers, was partial to Don Quixote and a number of his writings include recommendations to learn Spanish. Even during the early years of the country he appreciated the presence of the Spanish language and of Spanish speaking cultures on the hemisphere. The Nobel Prize winning Spanish poet, Juan Ramón Jiménez, was a professor at both the University of Maryland and Puerto Rico, and a member of the Cosmos Club in Washington D.C.

Ambroggio, added that the realization of this conference is, “*another accomplishment for the Academy in its mission to help rescue the recognition and vitality of the culture, literature, and history of the Hispanic language in the United States, which enriches us as a country.*”

The director of the ANLE, **Gerardo Piña-Rosales**, stated that he believes the event to be, “*without precedent for our Academy, a nonprofit institution with a rich history, with a mission to foster unity and promote the Spanish language, excluding politics.*”

The director of the Real Academia de la Lengua Española, (Royal Spanish Academy), **Jose Manuel Blecua**, will also be present to celebrate the foundation of the ANLE.

**More information about the events organized during the congress:** <http://anlecongreso.wordpress.com>



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### **About the North American Academy of the Spanish Language**

The North American Academy of the Spanish Language is the youngest of the 22 that make up the Association of Academies of the Spanish Language. Though the idea to found it had been in the works for over 100 years, it was not created until 1973 when Tomás Navarro Tomás, a member of the Royal Spanish Academy exiled in New York, began the process. He was supported by the Chilean Carlos McHale, and the Spaniard Odón Betanzos Palacios, the Peruvian Eugenio Chang-Rodríguez—who will be attending the conference—the Ecuadorian Gumersindo Yépez, the Puerto Rican Juan Aviles, and the Spaniard Jaime Santamaría.

The Academy is made up of prominent linguists, lexicographers, essayists, language historians, translators, university professors, researchers, and an increasing number of scientists in diverse fields.

Among the members of the Academy are Jorge Guillén, Ramón J. Sender, José Ferrater Mora, Enrique Anderson Imbert, Eugenio Florit, Rolando Hinjosa-Smith, Fernando Algeria, etc.

For more information visit <http://www.anle.us>

### **The mission of ANLE is**

1. To study, develop and execute the normative rules of the Spanish of the United States of America.
2. To preserve the use of the Spanish language by establishing, disseminating and promoting among Hispanic Americans the criteria of proper and correct usage through norms that justify and clarify that use.
3. To ensure that, in its constant adaptation to the particular needs of Spanish speakers, the use of the Hispanic American variant does not affect the unity and understanding of the language in the Hispanic world.
4. To offer authoritative advice to public and private institutions on the norms of use of Hispanic American Spanish.
5. To assure that the Spanish used by all Hispanic Americans serves as the foundation for strengthening true bilingualism that can enrich the culture of the United States.
6. To collaborate in the programs, plans and initiatives for the teaching of Spanish in the United States at all levels of education, in addition to promoting and strengthening our Hispanic cultural heritage.
- 7 To collaborate in the programs of the Association of Academies of the Spanish Language.

### **The Royal Spanish Academy's Participation**

The Royal Spanish Academy (RAE) was founded in Madrid in 1713 by the celebrated Juan Manuel Fernandez Pacheco, the Marquis of Villena, and the Duke of Escalona in the style of the French Academy. The following year, King Phillip V approved its constitution and put it under his protection. The 46 members of the Academy are chosen for life by the other academicians. Each academician The 46 members are selected for life by the rest of the academicians and have an assigned seat distinguished with an uppercase or lowercase letter.

The Spanish Academy has committed for almost 250 years to the mission of "*limpiar, fijar y dar esplendor*" to the Spanish language. In recent times, the RAE (Royal Spanish Academy), without forgetting its old slogan, has adopted an overriding focus on defending "the unity of Spanish within its diversity."

**José Manuel Blecua** is the director of the institution since December 2010.