



HOGAR de Dallas

Quarterly General Meeting
Saturday, March 14, 2026
2 pm to 4 pm

Latino Cultural Center
2600 Live Oak St.
Dallas, Texas 75204

Join us!

GUEST SPEAKER
Alex Martinez

President
HOGAR de Dallas



Las Minas, Webb County, Texas 1800s-1930s

In honor of the late Albert Orozco and Albert Gonzalez, whose families first arrived at Las Minas, Alex will present on the history of Las Minas, a historic coal-mining community in northwestern Webb County. Active from the 1880s through the 1930s, this 50-year industrial hub was fueled by a dedicated railroad line connecting Laredo to remote mining camps. This infrastructure enabled the efficient transport of coal and supplies, linking the border region to larger markets and establishing Las Minas as a critical center for industrial development.

As a vital migration gateway, Las Minas drew a significant labor force from Mexico particularly from San Luis Potosí and Real de Catorce. The community became the birthplace of many first-generation Mexican Americans, marking the beginning of new lives shaped by mining labor and cross-border movement. Though the decline of coal eventually led families to relocate toward Laredo and across Texas, the legacy of Las Minas endures as a cornerstone in the formation of Mexican American heritage and the history of Texas labor.

Alex Martinez identifies as Mexican American, tracing his roots back to 16th-century Spanish settlers in Mexico and 17th-century explorers of what would become Texas. As a descendant of the 18th-century founding families of Nuevo Santander on both sides of the Rio Grande, Alex represents a lineage where "the border crossed them." His Native American and Spanish heritage, uncovered through years of genealogical research, has instilled in him a profound passion for the historical narrative of the Texas-Mexico borderlands.



2026 Scholarship Program

hogardedallas.org

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