**Lic. Alberto Velázquez Trujillo:**

Regional Executive Director of COFOA (Comunidades de Fe Organizadas en Acción – Communities of Faith Organized for Action).

COFOA is a regional organization in Central America and the first international affiliate of the PICO Network, with others operating in Rwanda and Haiti. An experienced PICO staff organizer, Mr. Velazquez has led the work in El Salvador and Guatemala since 2005. Previously Mr. Velazquez was Executive Director of North Valley Sponsoring Committee, PICO’s affiliate that serves seven Central/Northern California counties. He studied at the School of Philosophy at the University of Nuevo Leon, Mexico in 1973. After working in building industries in Sacramento, he became a PICO leader through St. Joseph’s Parish as part of a campaign to fight for the rights of low income Sacramento residents in the 90’s. Alberto subsequently led the strongest campaign in the Sacramento organization since its inception, involving more than 5000 immigrant leaders in a fight for their rights, and resulting in the strongest increase in citizenship among immigrants in the region. As a result, Mr. Velazquez was awarded the national community leadership award by the Immigrant Legal Resource Center in San Francisco, CA. Mr. Velazquez’ organizing work has helped him bring a vision of democracy to everyday people through ongoing leadership training in which they build relationships that become the foundation for accountability on the part of key community decision-makers.