



# LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR OLDER ADULTS

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Los Angeles, CA 90010



**Board of Supervisors**  
Hilda L. Solis, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
Mark Ridley-Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
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<http://wdacs.lacounty.gov/>

**Executive Board**  
Gene Dorio, M.D., President  
Helen Romero Shaw, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Richard Wolfe, Ph. D., 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Michael Neely, Secretary  
Kim Bowman, J.D., Fiscal Officer  
Diana Love, Past President

## 2019-2020 COMMISSIONER BIOGRAPHIES

**Executive Liaison**  
Anna Avdalyan, Program Manager

**Executive Director**  
Guillermo Medina



### GENE DORIO—PRESIDENT

Commissioner Gene Dorio is a physician in Santa Clarita practicing geriatric medicine, providing house calls for over thirty years to older adults who are confined to their home. He is on the Executive Board of the Santa Clarita Valley Senior Center Advisory Council, 11 years on the Samuel Dixon Family Health Center Board of Directors, 15 years Visiting Nurse Association-Partners in Care Foundation-Board of Directors. He serves on at the Canyon Blue Ribbon Committee on Elder Suicide Prevention and at the Medical Executive Committee of Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital. He writes in local blogs and newspapers, host “The Senior Hour” and KHTS Radio for 15 years. He joined LACCOA in October 2018.



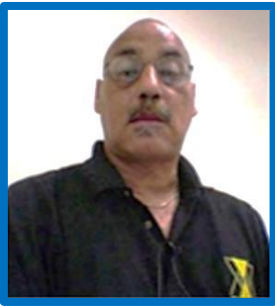
### HELEN ROMERO SHAW—1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT

Commissioner Helen Romero Shaw currently works as a Public Affairs Manager. She is a member of United Latino, Rosemead Chamber Board of Directors, Alhambra Chamber of Directors, and East Los Angeles College Foundation Board of Directors. She was awarded the Breaking Glass of Ceiling Award by the Latina Golfers Association and the Women of Distinction Award given by Business Life Magazine. She was appointed to LACCOA in June 2015.



### RICHARD WOLFE—2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT

Commissioner Richard Wolfe is a retiree of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services/Health Facilities. He holds a PhD in Health Care Administration. Commissioner Wolfe was recognized for his service from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the City of Los Angeles Department of Aging. He joined LACCOA in July 2014.



### **MICHAEL NEELY--SECRETARY**

Commissioner Michael Neely founded the Homeless Outreach Program in 1988 and served as its director until his retirement. He served on the Downtown Strategic Plan Committee which provided the guidelines for the development of Downtown Los Angeles. He also served on the Los Angeles Homeless Services Commission and the Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Caucus Veterans Braintrust and serves on the board of several non-profits. He is a Vietnam veteran. He currently resides in Los Angeles. He joined LACCOA in April 2017.



### **KIM BOWMAN—FISCAL OFFICER**

Commissioner Kim Bowman is an attorney in Los Angeles County. He is also a Captain in the United States Air Force Reserve and a member of the Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps Reserve. He has served on the boards of community non-profits and associations, including a hospital community advisory council, children's learning centers, as chair of a community council, and in 2016 he ran for Lt. Governor of Utah. He was appointed to LACCOA in June 2018.



### **DIANA LOVE—PAST PRESIDENT**

Commissioner Diana Love is a retired. She has served as a past Field Representative for the California State Assembly, Consultant for Parents Anonymous, Inc., Chair of Antelope Valley PFLAG, AARP chapter and Past Board President for the AV House of Deliverance for Battered Women. Commissioner Love serves as Chair on the City of Palmdale Mobile home Rental Review Board, member of the MHA-AV advisory Committee and member of the California Senior Legislature as a Senior Senator. In 2017, she was honored to receive the LINK Award from LACCOA. She joined LACCOA in April 2015.



### **ROBERT BOLLER**

Commissioner Robert Boller is the Director of Project Angel Food, a non-profit organization that delivers food to residents of Los Angeles County that are unable to shop or cook for themselves. He is currently a member of Hunger Action Los Angeles (HALA). HALA works to end hunger and promotes healthy eating through advocacy, direct service, and organizing. Commissioner Robert Boller joined LACCOA in February 2016.



### **KRISTINE CHOULAKIAN**

Commissioner Kristine Choulakian is a gerontologist from the University of Southern California with 18 years of experience in the healthcare and homecare industry. She enjoys the opportunity to dedicate her public service to individuals with disabilities and elderly people through the Personal Assistance Services Council (PASC) of Los Angeles County. PASC is the largest public authority in California for In-Home Supportive Services exclusively serving Los Angeles County. She joined LACCOA in November 2018



### **JERRY GAINES**

Commissioner Jerry Gaines is a U.S. Navy Veteran who retired from the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District – Secondary Education. He was recognized as the Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year and awarded the U.S. Congress Award for serving as Chair of the Military Reuse Committee. Commissioner Jerry Gaines joined LACCOA in October 2015.



### **RUTH E. GONZALES**

Commissioner Ruth Gonzales is a retired teacher, accounting clerk, and receptionist. In 2002, West Covina Elementary School recognized her as Teacher of the Year. The 58<sup>th</sup> Assembly District declared her Woman of the Year in 2012. Since her retirement in 2005, she volunteers at the South El Monte Senior Center's Bingo Night every Tuesday. Commissioner Ruth Gonzales joined LACCOA in September 2015.



### **YOLANDA GORMAN**



### **RAYMOND HALL**

Commissioner Raymond Hall is a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran who has extensive knowledge of the issues Veterans face and founded A Senior Salute, Inc. A Senior Salute was developed to recognize senior Veterans for their life service. He volunteers for the California Senior Legislature and the American Legion Post 109. Commissioner Raymond Hall joined LACCOA in October 2016.



### **OLEETA IGAR**

Commissioner Oleeta Igar has 21 years of experience working in Social Services. She currently works as a manager for Community Partnership, at the Personal Assistance Services Council (PASC). PASC is the public authority for In-Home Supportive Services in Los Angeles County. Commissioner Oleeta Igar joined LACCOA in July 2015.



### **KYO PAUL JHIN**

Commissioner Paul Jhin retired from the U.S. Peace Corps in 2009, where he served as Director for the Office of Planning, Policy, and Analysis. He spends time volunteering with the California Postsecondary Education Commission and the Los Angeles County Citizen's Economic and Efficiency Commission in 2015, he was the recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. He joined LACCOA in July 2014.



### **JOHN KOTICK**

Since 1972, Mr. Kotick has brought leadership to the nonprofit sector in Los Angeles as Vice President, Programs & Services for St. Barnabas Senior Services, CAO for Outpatient Clinics – Orthopedic Hospital, and Executive Director of the Center for Health Care Rights. Kotick has also been a Delegate to the California Conference on Handicapped Individuals, the California State House Conference on Aging and has contributed to California legislation including the “Torres-Felando Long Term Care Reform Act”. He joined LACCOA October 2018.



### **CATHY McCLURE**

Commissioner Cathy McClure is Professional Fundraiser, currently working as the Director of Development for the Discovery Cube Los Angeles. She spent over 20 years with the United Way of Greater Los Angeles raising funds for Health and Human Services throughout the County of Los Angeles. She served on the board of the Rio Hondo Chapter of the American Red Cross and was the first women chairperson. She also served as Commissioner in Social Services for the City of Whittier for 10 years. Commissioner Cathy McClure joined LACCOA in January 2018.



### **GAYLE MCKINNEY**

Commissioner Gayle McKinney is a retired Medical Equipment Store Manager. She serves on the Board of the Alhambra Family Guidance Center, San Gabriel Valley YMCA, and the Alhambra Case Management Board. In 2015, she was honored by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and LACCOA, at the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Older Americans Recognition Day Awards. Commissioner Gayle McKinney joined LACCOA in May 2015.



### **BARBARA MELTZER**

Commissioner Barbara Meltzer is a President of Barbara Meltzer & Associates, a Los Angeles-based Public Relations and Marketing Agency, specializing in nonprofits, authors and aging-related education, services and products. She served as NBC-TV's Director of Network Creative Services, in addition to spending 10-years on the *Tonight Show with Johnny Carson*. She also serves on Purposeful Aging LA's Action Planning Work Group, AARP California's Livable Communities Advisory Team and West Hollywood's Human Services Commission. She was appointed to LACCOA in 2007.



### **PETER MEZZA**

Commissioner Peter Mezza is a retired Housing Authority Administrator for the City of Santa Monica. He worked over 25 years in Social Services and Community Corrections. Currently, Commissioner Mezza serves on the Board of Teen Line, an organization that focuses on adolescent suicide prevention. His academic studies earned him multiple degrees in Government, Urban Studies, and Public Administration. Commissioner Peter Mezza joined LACCOA in February 2016.



### **SHEILA MOORE**

Commissioner Sheila Moore, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, is the Senior Director of Comprehensive Older Adult Services for Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles. She worked with older adults and their families facilitating support groups for caregivers for 30 years. She is an active public speaker, educator, and clinician. Commissioner Sheila Moore joined LACCOA in July 2016.



### **ARLENE OKAMOTO**

Commissioner Arlene Okamoto is a retired Senior Services Coordinator for Methodist Hospital of Southern California. She served on the Board of Directors for the Red Cross, American Cancer Association, and Wellness Community Board. In support of her husband, she enjoys advocating on behalf of Veteran issues. Commissioner Arlene Okamoto joined LACCOA in July 2015.



### **ELIZABETH PAYNE**

Commissioner Elizabeth Payne is a retired Activity Director for the City of Inglewood. She worked with older adults for over 40 years. She currently volunteers with the California Senior Legislature, the California Senior Leadership Alliance, and Relay for Life. Commissioner Elizabeth Payne joined LACCOA in March 2015.



### **KIERA POLLOCK**

Kiera Pollock is the Director of Senior Services at the Los Angeles LGBT Center. She oversees residential and nonresidential social services and activities for more than 5,000 seniors as well as Triangle Square, the nation's first affordable housing complex for LGBT seniors. Kiera holds a Master's Degree in Clinical Social Work from Fordham University and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) in New York and an Associate Social Worker (ASW) in California. Commissioner Kiera Pollock joined LACCOA in October 2018.



### **CARMEN REYES**

Commissioner Carmen Reyes currently works as Director of Community Relations and Outreach at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), David Geffen School of Medicine, Division of Geriatrics, Los Angeles Community Academic Partnership in Research in Aging (L.A. CAPRA). She serves as Commissioner on the State of California Commission on Aging, and is a member of the Los Angeles Aging Advocacy Coalition (LAAAC). Commissioner Carmen Reyes joined LACCOA in April 2017.



### **JOSHUA SNEED**

Captain Joshua Sneed is an officer in The Salvation Army, currently serving primarily in the Long Beach area to work with bringing resources to marginalized communities and helping adults succeed in recovery from substance abuse recovery. He also works in Senior Center administration, older adult program leadership, music instruction, marketing/graphic design, employment services, and individual and group coaching. Captain Sneed's work with The Salvation Army spans over two decades. He joined LACCOA in October 2018.



### **PATRICIA STANYO**

Commissioner Patricia Stanyo is a retired teacher. She served as Chairman for United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA) Harbor Area and Long Beach Gray Panthers. She also served as Vice President for the California Alliance of Retired Americans. She is a member of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party Committee and the California Democratic Party Executive Board. Commissioner Patricia Stanyo joined LACCOA in March 2015.



### **TANYA TASSI**

Commissioner Tanya Tassi, joined LACCOA in April of 2016. She is the National Community Center Policy Manager at the Los Angeles LGBT Center. Commissioner Witt received her Gerontology certification from the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology and is working on her Master's in Public Health. She joined LACCOA in April 2016.



### **DANCINGWATER TAYLOR**



### **LAVADA THEUS**

Commissioner Lavada Theus is a retired school administrator. Her desire to assist in making the lives of older adults easier led her to volunteer with the California Senior Legislature, where she currently serves as Chairperson. She is also Co-chair of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Supervisorial District Senior Services Committee for Empowerment Congress. Commissioner Lavada Theus joined LACCOA in January 2017.



### **ELVIA TORRES**

Commissioner Elvia Torres is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. Her organizational memberships include California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, Oversight Board Member for the City of La Puente, and Board Member of the California Association of Alcohol and Drug Programs Executives. In 2015, she was recognized as Woman of the Year by Assemblyman Roger Hernandez. Commissioner Elvia Torres joined LACCOA in March 2015.



### **CHARLES TREVIÑO**

Commissioner Charles Treviño is a retired Public Affairs Representative, teacher for the Los Angeles Unified School District, Director for the Metropolitan Water District, and former Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission for the City of South Pasadena. He received multiple awards of recognition from the California State Legislature, State Board of Equalization, Los Angeles Board of Education, and the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors. He joined LACCOA in August 2014.



### **SANDRA TUNG**

Commissioner Sandra Tung is a social activist and she has served the community for forty years and has made unremitting efforts to improve the social status of minority people. Commissioner Tung loves political activities and had worked for former Secretary of State of California March Fong Eu. Commissioner Tung is also a promoter of culture, art, journalism, film, television and media. She is the CEO of American Chinese Exchange Association. She joined LACCOA in June 2018.



### **MARIA WIEST**

Commissioner Maria Wiest has established herself as an Executive Leader with the right mix of Servant Leadership, Enthusiasm, Emotional Intelligence and Innovative Thinking. A recognized Leader with 20+ years of experience in spanning multiple disciplines – Information Technology, Operations, Human Resources, Finance, Sales, Marketing and Executive Management. She is best known for crafting strategies to meet organizational goals. She holds extensive experience in the Not for Profit, Service and Oil Sectors. She joined LACCOA in August 2017.



### **SYLVIA YOUNGBLOOD**

Commissioner Sylvia Youngblood is the Co-founder and Southern California Administrator of the Community Advisory Committee Leadership Collaborative (CACLC), a grassroots organization dedicated to connecting CAC's across California and raising awareness in the special needs community on the importance of the legislative process, community involvement, and decision making. She is a strong supporter of giving back, positive, effective and meaning collaborations, advancing forward, and most important bridging and filling the gaps to strengthen and build positive role models and leaders within our special needs' community. She joined LACCOA in August 2017.