

# Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA)



## 2010 – 2011 Annual Report

Visit us at: <http://css.lacounty.gov/laccoa.aspx>

## Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

The Commission would like to thank the Board of Supervisors for their ongoing support in advocating for issues that are confronting the older adult population in Los Angeles County. In these tough economic times with cutbacks on social services that affect many seniors, we have been able to work with the Board of Supervisors to let our voices be heard at the state and federal level. The increase in the senior population demands that we work closely with the Board of Supervisors to ensure that Los Angeles County remains a place for this demographic to lead healthy, safe, and productive lives. The Commission looks forward to an ongoing productive relationship with the Board.



**Gloria Molina**  
*Supervisor, First District*



**Mark Ridley-Thomas**  
*Supervisor, Second District*



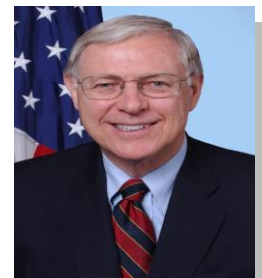
**Zev Yaroslavsky**  
*Supervisor, Third District*



**Don Knabe**  
*Supervisor, Fourth District*

### Board Deputies

**Louisa Ollague**, First District  
**Andrea Aragon**, First District  
**Sylvia Drew-Ivie**, Second District  
**Flora Gil Krisiloff**, Third District  
**Nick Ippolito**, Fourth District  
**Helen Berberian**, Fifth District



**Michael D. Antonovich**  
**Chairman**  
*Supervisor, Fifth District*



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## Message from the President



It is a distinct honor to have been elected President of the newly formed Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA) and to have the opportunity to meet the challenge before us by working together with some four dozen of the most dedicated individuals imaginable. We have met head-on many of the issues that have tested the determination of this fledgling organization and I am most pleased to report that we have met them unwaveringly. We all know that the budgetary crisis affects us all—not only at the local level but at the state and federal levels as well. Many of our programs are either underfunded or unfunded altogether. As an example, were it not for the fact that this Commission voted to take funds from its meager budget to underwrite the cost of the Older Americans Recognition Day Luncheon, the event would have been cancelled for the first time in over 40 years. But we remain undaunted.

Fiscal Year 2011-12 will have its challenges. A result, in great part, of the aging baby boomers, many of whom will require different programs and services than are currently available. In light of these newly defined needs, our committees are reassessing their goals, and we are confident that these needs, whether expressed or implied, will be met. LACCOA will be facing a series of extraordinary tests as it enters its second year, but it is our promise to LA County's older adults that we will work diligently to achieve success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernard Weintraub".

Bernard Weintraub, President  
Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults

## Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA)

In 1949, the Board of Supervisors established LACCOA to advise them and various county departments on the needs of older adults within Los Angeles County. LACCOA was responsible for preserving the health and general welfare of L.A. County seniors; encouraging and assisting local communities and groups to plan for and develop services for older persons; providing a general education program to create self-sufficiency among older adults; and increasing the understanding of the problems, needs and contributions of older persons by the community as a whole.

In 1975, as mandated by the Older Americans Act of 1965, the Los Angeles County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Advisory Council was established to advise the County AAA on all matters relating to the development, administration, and operation conducted under the Area Plan. The Council was also charged with advocating on behalf of seniors within the County.

Both of these senior advisory bodies acted as representatives of older individuals and also served as advocates for seniors. They provided advice and offered comment on the development and implementation of programs for older adults. In addition, they recognized the accomplishments of senior volunteers and provided public education to seniors and the community as a whole.

In 2008, Arroyo, a consulting firm, was hired by the CEO of the Los Angeles County to review and provide recommendations on the status of over 95 Los Angeles County Commissions. In its report, Arroyo states, "In addition to inactive Commissions, the study found two instances where Commissions had overlapping or duplicative objectives and activities and would be better served if they were consolidated." In one case, the advisory groups were the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Advisory Council and the Los Angeles County Commission on Aging (LACCOA)—both of which are dedicated to addressing the needs and well-being of older residents. The CEO forwarded the consultant's recommendation to the BOS.

Based upon the Arroyo Report, the Board of Supervisors approved a motion on June 22, 2009, for the Director of Community and Senior Services (CSS) to coordinate the restructuring of LACCOA and the AAA Advisory Council into one body within 90 days of July 1, 2009. CSS formed a steering committee comprised of members from both groups to develop a detailed consolidation plan.

It was determined that the following benefits would result from the consolidation:

- Significantly strengthens the advocacy role
- Eliminates duplicative assignments
- Generates cost savings—combining both groups reduces the cost of supplies, education, travel, and support staff
- Enhances communication—assists CSS by providing one voice to augment distribution of information regarding older adults to older populations and to the community at large
- Promotes and preserves the well-being of all seniors throughout Los Angeles County including those living in Los Angeles City

- Improves identification of needs and issues of seniors
- Assists in the development, administration and oversight of the Area Plan
- Provides a strong advocacy for seniors when presenting to the BOS and other governmental and non-governmental entities

Consolidation will unify the mission and role of each group into a singular, active, and determined advocacy body to meet the needs of the growing senior community.



## LACCOA Mission and Goals

### **MISSION**

The mission of LACCOA is to advocate, advise and make recommendations regarding the needs and welfare of Los Angeles County seniors, age 60 and older, to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and departments of County government and other entities that provide services to seniors regarding their needs, health, well-being, and rights.

To accomplish this mission, LACCOA:

- Assists the County in preparing for the significant increase expected in the senior population.
- Network and collaborate with other partners who are interested in and concerned about issues affecting seniors.
- Develop methods of communications which enhance and provide outreach and education to seniors in Los Angeles County.
- Advocates for the needs and well-being of older adults in Los Angeles County.

### **GOALS**

Advise Board of Supervisors regarding needs of older population in Los Angeles County. Recognize outstanding voluntary efforts and community service by seniors living in Los Angeles County. Enhance distribution of LACCOA information and findings to the community at large and to appropriate Los Angeles County Departments. Maintain efforts to assist older population with information regarding transportation.

### **COMPOSITION**

The Commission shall include individuals and representatives of community organizations. The Commission shall be made up of:

- more than 50 percent older individuals, including minority individuals who are participants or who are eligible to participate in Area Agency on Aging programs;
- representatives of older persons;
- representatives of health care provider organizations;
- representatives of supportive services provider organizations;

- persons with leadership experience in the private and voluntary sectors;
- local elected officials; and
- the general public

Ethnic distribution should be representative of the population served, and LACCOA members must be residents of Los Angeles County.

The Commission is comprised of 50 members: 25 appointed directly by the Board of Supervisors and 25 selected by LACCOA. Each vacancy will be filled accordingly.

The LACCOA general meetings are every first Monday of each month, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., unless there is a holiday; then the meeting is rescheduled to meet on Tuesday. The Executive Board meetings are every third Monday of each month, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The new Commission structure includes an Executive Committee and six standing committees; Area Plan, which includes Veterans Affairs, Employment, and Elder Abuse and Fraud Prevention; Communications; Health, Nutrition, and Long-term Care; Housing Transportation, Legislative and Advocacy; and Membership.

**The officers elected in Fiscal Year 2010-2011 were:**

**Bernard Weintraub**  
**Aida M. Villalobos**  
**Peter J. McGrath**  
**David S. Siegrist**  
**Barbara Sinclair**

**President**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**  
**Secretary**  
**Fiscal Officer**



**Officers for 2010-2011:** From left to right: **Bernard Weintraub**, President; **Aida Villalobos**, First Vice President; **Peter McGrath**, Second Vice President; **David Siegrist**, Secretary; **Barbara Sinclair**, Fiscal Officer



## LACCOA Commissioners

### Supervisory District I



Mary Helen Cruz



Gloria Duran



William Givens



Samuel Park



David Siegrist

### Supervisory District II



Frank Calderon



Mattye Fegan-Perry



Zelda Hutcherson



William Jackson



Lonnie McNamee



Theresa Rotter



Lavada Theus



Aida M. Villalobos

#### **Commissioners not pictured:**

Eleanor Brown  
Nathaniel Riddick

### Supervisory District III



Krishan Bhalla



Sol Fingold



Marilyn Fried



Peter Getzoff



Oleeta Igar



Barbara Meltzer



Bernard Weintraub

**Commissioner not pictured:**  
Maurice Weiner

### **Supervisory District IV**



Aziz Amiri



Ralph Flores



Irene Griffith



William Ha



Raymond Hall



Hedy Harrison



Jung Kim



James Polk



Cindy Skovgard



Elizabeth Wilson

### **Supervisory District V**



Natalie Ambrose



Bianca Langley



Peter McGrath



Arlene Okamoto



Marvin Schachter



Barbara Sinclair



Elizabeth Wong



Vicente Zapata

**Commissioner not pictured:**  
Nneenah Frazier

## LACCOA Strategic Plan July 2010 – 2013

**VISION:** Los Angeles County will be one of the best communities for older adults in the nation.

**MISSION:**

The mission of LACCOA is to advocate, advise and make recommendations regarding the needs and welfare of Los Angeles County seniors, age 60 and older, to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and departments of County government and other entities that provide services to seniors regarding their needs, health, well-being, and rights.

LACCOA has developed the following Strategic Plan for the period July 2010-June 2013 to guide its efforts in realizing its vision and mission.

**STRATEGY 1: Create committees to address immediate and long-term issues affecting older adults in Los Angeles County and to facilitate the operation of LACCOA.**

**Objective 1:**

By July 2010, identify standing committees, which will meet regularly to address issues pertaining to older and functionally disabled adults.

The Commission established six standing committees (Area Plan; Communications; Health, Nutrition, and Long-Term Care; Housing and Transportation; Legislative and Advocacy; and Membership).

**Objective 2:**

By February 2011, form an Ad Hoc Needs Assessment committee to advise AAA staff on gathering, analyzing and reporting relevant data pertaining to the needs of Los Angeles County's older adult population.

The Ad Hoc Needs Assessment committee has continued to work with the department to determine the needs of seniors. The committee will have a final report by the end of 2011.

**Objective 3:**

Form additional committees, as needed, to meet immediate and long-term needs.

The commission has formed a Bylaws committee and an Older Americans Recognition Day Event committee to meet the short-term needs of the commission and to complete their tasks.

**STRATEGY 2: Advise Area Agency on Aging staff on all matters relating to the needs and welfare of Los Angeles County Seniors age 60+ including the planning process for Public Hearings on the final update of the 2009-2012 Area Plan and the development of the 2012-2016 Area Plan.**

Objective 1:

By July 1, 2010, form an Area Plan Committee to advise AAA staff on Public Hearings for the final update of the 2009-2012 Area Plan.

The committee worked closely with AAA staff to determine the location and scheduling of the public hearings. Commissioners also served as hearing officers at these hearings.

Objective 2:

By January 2011, participate in Public Hearings for the Area Plan by encouraging attendance and community participation in the hearings, ensuring that translators are available for non-English speaking attendees; attending and observing the hearings; and serving as Hearing Officers at the hearings as needed.

Commissioners attended the eight Public Hearings county-wide as hearing officers and also provided input on the issues of concern to the seniors.

Objective 3:

Review the Area Plan Update to ensure that it reflects public comments from the Public Hearings.

The Commission worked closely with AAA staff to ensure the Area Plan shows the issues that are affecting the senior community.

Objective 4:

Advise AAA staff on development and implementation of needs assessment of L.A. County seniors and disabled adults.

The needs assessment will be completed at the end of 2011. The Commission has worked with AAA staff.

Objective 5:

Advise AAA staff on the development and implementation of the 2012-2016 Area Plan.

The commission has begun to work with the department on the Area Plan. The Area Plan is scheduled to be completed by April 2012.

**STRATEGY 3: Increase advocacy and awareness in the community regarding aging needs, programs and services.**

Objective 1:

Increase awareness of older and functionally impaired about AAA programs and activities of LACCOA. By activities such as attending community meetings, developing and distributing newsletters and brochures and pursuing other avenues for disseminating information.

Commissioners routinely visit their respective senior centers and speak with seniors about concerns they may have. LACCOA has created a brochure with information about the Commission.

Objective 2:

By July 2011, increase advocacy efforts for senior programs and explore other issues relevant to older adults including health disparities, housing, transportation and other key issues.

The Commission has continuously written correspondence to elected officials on behalf of seniors on issues that affect them.

Objective 3:

Communicate with cities, their commissions and departments within Los Angeles County that deal with aging issues.

The Commission has begun to develop a network that will assist in communicating with other local agencies regarding senior issues.

Objective 4:

By July 2012, implement an educational/training program for LACCOA members to prepare them to effectively speak on behalf of the Commission.

The Commission is on track to train commissioners on how to attend public events and senior centers to speak on behalf of the Commission on hot-button issues that deal with seniors.

Objective 5:

Inform the Board of Supervisors of issues that are impacting the older adult population and provide recommendations and possible solutions.

## Highlights

The consolidation of the Los Angeles County Commission on Aging (LACCOA) with the Los Angeles County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council (PSA 19) was one of the major highlights of the year.

On June 22, 2009, the Board of Supervisors directed the Director of Community and Senior Services (CSS) to form a steering committee to develop a plan merging the Los Angeles County Commission on Aging and the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council. Mandated to move forward, a Transition Team was created and given one year to bring the two groups, with very disparate cultures, together.

Led by an outside facilitator, the Team worked tirelessly to create bylaws, committees and a means of paring down the original number of appointed and non-appointed commissioners from approximately 150 to 50; 25 to be appointed by the Board of Supervisors and 25 selected by the former Advisory Council. The Team was formed to develop all the mechanisms necessary for the new organization to begin functioning on July 1, 2010. This goal was met and the merger was successful!

### **BUDGET**

The operating budget for the first year was set at \$47,000.

### **MEETINGS**

The full Commission meets monthly. The Executive Board meets monthly at a midpoint between the general meetings. Committees meet regularly, each scheduling its own meeting time.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Elections were held in June, 2010 to fill the following positions: President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, and Fiscal Officer.

### **REVIEW OF BYLAWS**

An Ad-Hoc Bylaws Committee was established to review the new Board-approved bylaws to make them less restrictive and more workable to the body, as it continues to evolve.

### **Area Plan**

The Area Plan Committee worked with both LA City Department of Aging and LA County Department of Community and Senior Services to arrange public hearings at which seniors and those who provide programs and services to this demographic are given the opportunity to voice opinions, problems, and to ask questions. Commissioners participated at all the hearings and some of them acted as hearing officers.



### **Development of Outreach Materials for LACCOA**

LACCOA's Communications Committee produced brochures that contained essential information about the organization.

The Committee is re-creating a Speakers Bureau, which formerly existed in both previous bodies. The committee is also working on a new video that will be used at speaking engagements. The video will provide information on the programs and services that CSS provides for LA County's older adult population.

The Communications Committee also developed LACCOA's newsletter. The LINK, which is being sent to all city managers, mayors, all directors of Community and Senior Center, Board of Supervisors, County Department heads, and to Commissioners to distribute at the Senior Centers they visit.

## LACCOA Committees in Action

### **Area Plan Committee**

Chaired by Commissioner Marilyn Fried, this committee also included elder abuse and fraud prevention, veteran affairs, and senior employment.

Over the past year, the committee's primary focus was on the last update of the 2009-2012 Area Plan. Hearings were held throughout LA County, several jointly with Los Angeles City Department of Aging. LACCOA Commissioners served as Hearing Officers.

Following the hearings, committee members reviewed the 2011-2012 Area Plan Update to assure that the public comment section from each district accurately reflected the public's input.

In addition to Commissioner Fried, Area Plan Committee Members included Frank Calderon, Mattye Fegan-Perry, Ralph Flores, William Givens, Lonnie McNamee, Arlene Okamoto, Cindy Skovgard, and Elizabeth Wilson.

### **Communications Committee**

The Committee, chaired by Commissioner Barbara Meltzer, created a LACCOA brochure and produced and edited the new body's first edition of The LINK, LACCOA's newsletter.

In addition, a plan was developed to create a LACCOA Speakers Bureau, which will include the creation of a video, a PowerPoint presentation and marketing materials.

Commissioner Meltzer collaborated with the Area Plan Committee to assist in publicizing the Area Plan Public Hearings that were held throughout the county.

In addition to Commissioner Meltzer, committee members included Natalie Ambrose, Aziz Amiri, Eleanor Brown, Nate Riddick and Barbara Sinclair.

### **Health, Nutrition and Long-Term Care Committee**

Chaired by Commissioner Irene Griffith, this committee is supporting the national public health campaign to reduce sodium (salt) in our diets. The initiative, which helps to control blood pressure, heart function and stroke, was presented to the committee by Dr. Tony Kuo, Director of the LA County Office of Senior Health. The committee will work with Dr. Kuo on an ongoing basis to help ensure that LA County seniors receive information that will optimize their health.

Kevin Tsang, LCSE, District Chief, LA County Department of Mental Health, Older Adult Programs and staff from the County's Department of Mental Health presented jointly, covering a wide range of topics. Mr. Tsang expressed his interest in collaborating with LACCOA on a continuing basis. He suggested that the help of the Commission in the area of advocacy would be very valuable.

In addition to Commissioner Griffith, members of the committee included Gloria Duran, Co-chair; Peter Getzoff, William Ha, Samuel Park, Elizabeth Wong, and Vicente Zapata.

### **Housing and Transportation Committee**

Chaired by Commissioner Aida M. Villalobos, the committee also had oversight of “Seniors on the Move.”

Members held presentations at several senior centers throughout the year to address housing needs. In addition, three shelters were visited to assess the needs of seniors and to disseminate information regarding county housing programs. The shelters included OPCC in Santa Monica, which is a combination of senior center and shelter; CMB in Compton, which is a transition shelter facility; and Wilmington Senior Center, which had an attendance of over 100 seniors.

“Seniors on the Move” is collaboration between LACCOA and the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA). Offering workshops throughout the county, the program educates older adults about how to use LA’s public bus and train system. Workshops this fiscal year were held at Little Tokyo Korean Senior Center, Glendale Senior Center, the Gay and Lesbian Center in Hollywood and Long Beach Senior Center.

In addition to Commissioner Villalobos, members of the committee included; Krishan Bhalla, Housing Co-chair; Mary Helen Cruz, Transportation Co-chair; William Ha, Raymond Hall, Jung Kim, Bianca Langley, and Lavada Theus.

### **Legislative and Advocacy Committee**

Chaired by Commissioner Sol Fingold, this committee kept Commissioners up to date regarding ongoing national and state policies, legislation and other key matters that directly impact the lives of seniors. Working closely with CSS Legislative Analyst Vera Castillo, the committee submitted a resolution to the LA County Board of Supervisors, Assembly and State Senate members and Governor Jerry Brown recognizing and supporting efforts to close the budget gap and to adopt sustainable fiscal policies. At the request of this committee, a congratulatory letter was sent from LACCOA to the newly elected members of the State Legislature.

In addition to Commissioner Fingold, members are Zelda Hutcherson, Oleeta Igar, William Jackson, Lonnie McNamee, James Polk, Marvin Schachter, David Siegrist, and Maurice Weiner.

## **Membership Committee**

Charged with oversight of receiving and screening applications for non-appointed members of LACCOA, this committee is chaired by Commissioner Nneenah Frazier. Over the past year, it has created guidelines for members, in addition to creating a new membership application form. Plans are still in the works to determine guidelines on the processing of each submitted application; monitoring attendance at Commission and committee meetings; and how to best handle absences. The Committee also reviewed the parameters on ethnicity under the Older Americans Act and is seeking solutions for compliance. Also in development is a new member orientation.

In addition to Commissioner Frazier, members of this committee included William Givens, Hedy L. Harrison, Peter McGrath and Theresa Rotter.

## One-On-One Interview by Commissioner Barbara Meltzer

*Professor Andrew E. Scharlach is a professor of social welfare at the University of California at Berkeley, where he holds the Eugene and Rose Kleiner Chair in Aging and directs the gerontology specialization in the School of Social Welfare. He also serves as director of the Center for the Advanced Study of Aging Services, which conducts research designed to inform development of innovative and effective services for older adults. In addition, Professor Scharlach served for seven years as a gubernatorial appointee on the California Commission on Aging.*

**Q. *We hear the term aging-friendly community more frequently now, along with other similar expressions, such as age-friendly and age-integrated. And then, of course, there is aging in place. How are they different?***

**A.** The issue of being able to age in place basically translates as continuing to live in one's home or apartment, but it doesn't necessarily mean that one is aging well. And so, living in a place that really supports the social environment that allows us to age well, is really the goal. For some people, that is where they lived their entire adult life. For others, it means moving to someplace else. But, simply put, an aging-friendly community promotes the physical and psychosocial well-being of community members, throughout the life cycle.

**Q. *How do retirement communities and assisted-living facilities fit into that concept?***

**A.** The question becomes whether a person prefers to live in a setting that is age-segregated (seniors only) or age-integrated (all ages)? Many older adults prefer to be in an age-integrated environment, but can't necessarily age well there. Others prefer to be in an age-segregated environment, which can be more conducive to safe and healthy aging. Purpose-built senior living environments are much more likely to have the physical amenities to support a person's ability to age well. However, an environment that is safe physically doesn't necessarily provide the social opportunities that would make it an aging-friendly community.

**Q. *Why is that?***

**A.** Folks might be aging in place but not have a real sense of community. That can even happen in a purpose-built senior environment, such as a retirement home. You can have a roommate or a tablemate who remains a stranger, making it possible to feel socially isolated even in the midst of other people.

**Q. *What are the elements that need to exist in order to create an aging-friendly environment—one that is a good place in which to grow old?***

**A.** A community might be considered aging-friendly to the extent that its major systems (Housing, transportation, mobility, health, social interaction, productivity, cultural and religious involvement, educational and leisure activity) are responsive to the changing needs and capabilities of its members as they age. This includes providing opportunities for fulfillment with regard to five psychosocial developmental tasks of later life: continuity, compensation, connection, contribution and challenge.

The short answer is to look at the physical infrastructure as well as the social aspects, and then ask the question: Can somebody easily get to the places that provide a sense of fulfillment throughout their lives, where they can be with other people?

**Q. *Since most people prefer to age in their own homes, how can we create systems that will allow that to happen?***

**A.** A good start is neighborhood by neighborhood, perhaps by forming a kind of neighborhood emergency response team. People need to have a sense of responsibility for each other. If we know our neighbors and are aware of those who might be vulnerable, in this case the frail elderly, we can develop neighbor-to-neighbor support systems that will enable us to check in on them, in good times as well as bad.

**Q. *You mention “environmental gerontology” in the American Society on Aging’s journal, “Generations.” It is a term that is very tied in with communities for older adults. What exactly does it mean?***

**A.** A major focus is on understanding how behavior varies across activity spaces, so as to design appropriate interventions to promote optimum physical, psychological, and social well-being. An example would be building in sensors that record a person’s balance changes in time and space, allowing individually tailored interventions to prevent falls.

**Q. *The use of technology is increasing rapidly in the area of aging, but it’s not always possible for individuals to purchase all, or even some, of what is available. Are there any technological advances that can be used by a city on a wide scale that will increase the chances of seniors being able to age at home?***

**A.** Telehealth and telemedicine are two examples of technology that assist in developing an infrastructure that can benefit everyone. A citywide network could be created that enables older residents to wear monitors that transmit information to a central clearinghouse, so that individuals who are using wearable sensors can be monitored and can communicate with a health care provider. . An example might be when someone’s insulin level drops. A monitor or sensor would send the information and immediate action could be taken.



**Q. Beacon Hill Village has taken another approach that encourages aging in place. How is that model different?**

**A.** In that case, it's the idea of people coming together and making a common commitment to one another, including a potential financial commitment. Members pay dues, and are able to obtain a variety of services, often for free or at a discount.

In the case of the Village model, most members are middle-income seniors who don't qualify for government services, but do need help—seniors who want a sense of independence and need some services to make that happen. The Village movement is predicated on being consumer-driven and free standing, not part of existing social service delivery and financing systems. That is its strength, but also a potential limitation.

**Q A little over a year ago, you wrote in Generations, "In a real way, efforts for aging-friendly communities are in their infancy. The idea that we can have age-related disabilities and still live a good life is relatively new. Can we grow into that image of ourselves? The task now is to create venues to bring together experts and promising practices that help shape people's view of the possibilities." How far have we advanced since you wrote that?**

**A.** The fact that you and I are having this conversation is an example of the growing interest in this issue.

This spring, the American Society on Aging held a daylong symposium about Villages and aging in place. We are at a time when baby boomers are looking in the mirror and thinking about the possibilities that were not available for their parents. They're beginning to realize that aging can be better than it has been and that they can create communities in which they can age successfully. It's an exciting time.

*This article has been printed with permission from Jewish Home News.*

## Senior Center Community Outreach Committee

**PURPOSE:** The Senior Center Community Outreach Committee (SCCOC) was formed to outreach to senior center directors and support them with information and programming in their communities.

It is the goal of the SCCOC to bring together senior center directors throughout Los Angeles County at the semi-annual Senior Center Directors' Knowledge Fairs (DKF). The SCCOC has sponsored DKFs in the spring and fall each year since 2007. The event provides a forum for senior center directors to discuss regional issues and their impact on seniors, programmatic best practices and resources, as well as information sharing. A "Director's Corner" link has been added to the **Adult Care Network** website [www.losangeles.networkofcare.org/aging](http://www.losangeles.networkofcare.org/aging) to provide a web-based opportunity for senior center directors to share best practices.



**Outreach, Coordination, Collaboration:** The SCCOC continuously conducts outreach to senior center directors to foster coordination and collaboration of senior citizen programming. The SCCOC's activities are designed to promote a framework for senior center directors to learn from one another and gain greater knowledge of how to serve seniors in their centers. As a result of the SCCOC, center directors may now be a part of a countywide "Aging Network" that encourages program development and coordination of activities among City and County Area Agencies on Aging, senior center directors and other agencies providing services to older adults in Los Angeles County.

**Meetings:** The SCCOC convenes monthly meetings that are chaired annually on an alternate basis by the LACDOA General Manager and the Director of CSS/AAA.

**Members of the SCCOC:** The SCCOC is a collaborative of the County of Los Angeles Community and Senior Services (CSS)/Area Agency on Aging (AAA), City of Los Angeles Department of Aging (LACDOA), Los Angeles City Department of Recreation and Parks, County of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation Department, senior center directors, Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA), and the Public Assistance Services Council (PASC). All senior center directors in the County of Los Angeles are encouraged to participate.

## 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Older Americans Recognition Day (OARD)

The Nation celebrates Older Americans Recognition Month each May. In honor of this and to recognize LA County's older citizens who volunteer time, wisdom, and talents in their communities, the Commission organizes an Older American's Recognition Day (OARD) celebration. Hosted by the Board of Supervisors, LA County Community and Senior Services and LACCOA, the 2011 event, a beautiful and delicious luncheon, was held at the Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion and Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration Balcony.



*Cynthia D. Banks, Director of CSS, with the Honorees from Second District*



Ninety-five honorees were present and each received a scroll from the Board of Supervisors. The overall feeling of the event was joy and pride as honorees, family members, and friends alike celebrated the acknowledgement of individual efforts.

Commissioner Barbara Sinclair and Commissioner Cindy Skovgard worked diligently to produce the affair, which was themed "connecting the community".



*(Above Picture) Commissioner Barbara Sinclair with Honorees of the Fifth District*



*(Above Picture) Commissioner Barbara Sinclair congratulating the Honorees from Third District*



*(Right Picture) Honorees Esperanza Herrera and Victor Padilla from the First Districts*





*Deputy Sylvia Drew-Ivie and Cynthia D. Banks, CSS Director with Honoree Thelma Herbert-Wright from Second District*



*President Bernard Weintraub, LACCOA, and Cynthia D. Banks, CSS Director with Honoree Marta Elina Hansen from Third District*



*Honoree Polly Price, Second to the right, with her guests at the Fourth District OARD Ceremony*



*Fourth District Supervisor Don Knabe with Honoree Don Enriques*



*Fourth District Supervisor Don Knabe with Honoree Mary Ann King*



## Annual LACCOA Luncheon

The newly formed Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults held its annual luncheon celebrating the accomplishments for the year, discussing plans for the future, and swearing in a new slate of officers. The 2010 luncheon was held at Steven's Steak House.

Officers for the 2011-2012 fiscal years were sworn in by Board Deputy Helen Berberian, 5<sup>th</sup> District. They are **Bernard Weintraub**, President; **Cindy Skovgard**, First Vice President; **Peter J. McGrath**, Second Vice President; **Oleeta Igar**, Secretary; and **Barbara Sinclair**, Fiscal Officer.



Officers for 2011-2012: From left to right: **Peter McGrath**, Second Vice President; **Oleeta Igar**, Secretary; **Barbara Sinclair**, Fiscal Officer; **Bernard Weintraub**, President; **Cindy Skovgard**, First Vice President.



*The Bhallas*



*Cynthia D. Banks, CSS Director, honoring the Commissioners on a successful year*



*The LACCOA Commissioners at the Annual Luncheon*



## Message from Cynthia D. Banks, CSS Director



As Director of Los Angeles County Community and Senior Services (CSS), it is an honor to share with you the important work the newly formed Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA) is doing to enhance the quality of life of our aging population. The accomplishments in this annual report would not have been possible without the unwavering dedication of the LACCOA Commissioners.

Through its leadership, LACCOA continues to successfully carry out its purpose to preserve and promote the overall well-being of the senior population living in Los Angeles County. Another major contribution made by LACCOA is the coordination of the annual Older Americans Recognition Day (OARD) celebration. The County Board of Supervisors, in association with LACCOA, CSS, and local elected officials of the 88 cities and senior citizens' organizations, personally congratulate and recognize the many accomplishments of our honorees who volunteer in so many ways.

The *LINK* Newsletter, *Seniors on the Move*, and the Speakers' Bureau also represent LACCOA's accomplishments that have been carried out throughout the year in service to Los Angeles County's senior population.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate LACCOA on its accomplishments during the 2010-2011 fiscal year and thank each Commissioner for sharing his/her knowledge, time and energy to serve the citizens of Los Angeles County.

*Cynthia D. Banks*

Cynthia D. Banks, Director  
Community and Senior Services



## Credits

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