



Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults

LACCOA

2014 – 2015 Annual Report

“And in the end, it’s not the
years in your life that count.
It’s the life in your years.”

- Abraham Lincoln

Table of Contents

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors	3
Message from Aida Villalobos, LACCOA President	4
Message from Cynthia D. Banks, CSS Director	5
LACCOA Mission and Goals	6
LACCOA Executive Board	7
LACCOA Strategic Plan Update (July 2013 – June 2016)	8
Meet the Commissioners	10
LACCOA Committees in Action	13
Commissioners in Action	15
LACCOA Says Goodbye to a Friend	16
Older Americans Recognition Day (OARD) Events	17
Installation of Officers for 2015-2016	19
Credits	20

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA) would like to thank the Board of Supervisors for their continued support of LACCOA and its mission in advocating for older adult issues. The County of Los Angeles older adult population is expected to double from 9.7% in 2000 to 18.2% in 2030. The Commission looks forward to its continued collaboration with the Board of Supervisors to ensure that the health, well-being, and overall quality of life of older adults in Los Angeles County continue to thrive.



Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich (far left), 5th District; Supervisor Don Knabe, 4th District; Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair, 1st District; Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, 3rd District; and Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, 2nd District

Board Deputies

James Blunt, 1st District; **Brenda Robinson**, 2nd District; **Genethia Hudley-Hayes**, 3rd District; **Nick Ippolito**, 4th District; **Michelle Vega**, 5th District

Message from the President



It has been a privilege and an honor to serve a second term as President of the Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA).

Los Angeles County has over 2 million older adults. The LACCOA Commissioners are volunteers who serve all 88 cities in Los Angeles County. Serving such a huge older adult population is quite a challenge that is performed with love and dedication by our Commissioners.

During the past year, LACCOA accomplished the amendment of the LACCOA Bylaws. This was a lengthy process that required the approval of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

In addition, our Commissioners had the opportunity to attend many conferences and symposiums, such as the California Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Allied Conference in Los Angeles, California; the

American Society on Aging Conference in Chicago, Illinois; the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging Conference in Dallas, Texas; the Morton Kesten Summit at the University of Southern California (USC) in Los Angeles, California; a Town Hall Meeting in Reseda, California; and other LACCOA presentations to the senior population in various cities of Los Angeles County.

Every year, during the month of May, LACCOA honors outstanding seniors from all over Los Angeles County; seniors that have excelled in serving in their communities. This is known as the "Older Americans Recognition Day (OARD)," a celebration conducted in cooperation with the Board of Supervisors.

Our various committees are the heart and soul of LACCOA. The Area Plan Committee assisted in conducting and reporting their findings in over seven community Public Hearings. The Legislative Committee kept our members up to date on state and federal bills affecting our senior population. The Health, Nutrition, and Long-Term Care Committee disseminated information to our seniors on the topics of health and nutrition and advocated for senior needs. They also supported the Community and Senior Services (CSS) staff in the evaluation of nutritional centers. The Housing and Transportation Committee worked closely with Los Angeles Metro to implement ongoing programs and advocated for senior housing programs. The Communication Committee conducted presentations on the various senior programs via the LACCOA Speakers Bureau. The Membership Committee considered all matters pertaining to membership. They worked diligently in processing new applicants to LACCOA. The Executive Board members provided leadership and guidance to LACCOA.

In addition, kudos to CSS staff for the support they provide to LACCOA. We certainly acknowledge and appreciate their invaluable support.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Aida M. Villalobos".

2014-2015 LACCOA President

Message from Cynthia D. Banks, CSS Director



As the Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Community and Senior Services (CSS), it is a privilege to work with the hard working Commissioners of LACCOA. LACCOA Commissioners are to be commended for their accomplishments stated in this Annual Report and their continued mission to advocate on behalf of older adults in Los Angeles County.

The residents of Los Angeles County can be proud that LACCOA has continued to lead in its mission to promote the overall well-being of the older adult population living in Los Angeles County.

LACCOA should also be commended for hosting the Older Americans Recognition Day (OARD) events in May 2015. The 50th OARD Anniversary of celebrating the invaluable contributions of older adults in their communities was a success. LACCOA worked with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, CSS, local elected officials from the 88 cities, and senior citizens organizations honored 105 older adults who volunteered in their communities.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate LACCOA on its accomplishments during 2014-2015 and thank all Commissioners for providing advocacy to enhance the lives of all older adults in Los Angeles County.

Cynthia D. Banks

Cynthia D. Banks, Director
Community and Senior Services

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 older adults age 60 and older to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, departments of County government, and other entities that provide services to older adults regarding their needs, health, well-being, and rights.

To accomplish this mission, LACCOA:

- Assists Los Angeles County in preparing for expected growth within the older adult population.
- Networks and collaborates with other partners who are interested in and concerned about issues affecting older adults.
- Develops methods of communications which enhance and provides outreach and education to older adults in Los Angeles County.
- Advocates for the needs and well-being of older adults in Los Angeles County.

GOALS

- **Advises** the Board of Supervisors regarding needs of the older population in Los Angeles County.
- **Recognizes** outstanding voluntary efforts and community service by older adults living in Los Angeles County.
- **Enhances** the distribution of LACCOA information and findings to the community at large and to appropriate Los Angeles County Departments.
- **Maintains** efforts to assist the older population with information regarding transportation.

COMPOSITION

The Commission includes 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 (AAA) programs;
- Representatives of older adults;
- 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 by the Board of Supervisors and 25 selected by LACCOA. Each vacancy will be filled accordingly.

The LACCOA General Meetings are held every first Monday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Executive Board meetings are held every third Monday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. If there is a holiday on Monday, the meetings are held on Tuesday.

The Commission structure includes an Executive Board and six standing committees: Area Plan; Communications; Health, Nutrition, and Long-Term Care; Housing and Transportation; Legislative and Advocacy; and Membership.



2014-2015 Executive Board (left to right): Vicente Zapata, Secretary; Aida Villalobos, President; Gloria Duran, 1st Vice President; Linda Yamauchi, 2nd Vice President; Marilyn Fried, Past President; and Raymond Hall, Fiscal Officer

LACCOA Strategic Plan Update (July 2013 – June 2016)

LACCOA developed the following Strategies and Objectives to guide its efforts in realizing its vision and mission in the period of July 2013 – June 2016.

STRATEGY 1: Standing committees will continue 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 of each year, 2013-2015, standing committees will meet regularly to address issues pertaining to older and functionally disabled adults.

Objective 2:

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

STRATEGY 2: Advise AAA staff on all matters relating to the needs and welfare of Los Angeles County older adults, including the planning process for Public Hearings on the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 Area Plan Updates.

Objective 1:

By July 1, 2013, form an Area Plan Committee to advise AAA staff on Public Hearings for the annual update for the 2014-2015 Area Plan Update.

Objective 2:

By July 1, 2014, form an Area Plan Committee to advise AAA staff on Public Hearings for the update of the annual update for the 2015-2016 Area Plan Update.

Objective 3:

By January 2014, participate in Public Hearings for the 2014-2015 Area Plan Update 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.

Objective 4:

By January 2015, participate in Public Hearings for the 2015-2016 Area Plan Update 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.

Objective 5:

Review the 2014-2015 Area Plan Update to ensure that it reflects public comments from the Public Hearings.

Objective 6:

Review the 2015-2016 Area Plan Update to ensure that it reflects public comments from the Public Hearings.

STRATEGY 3: Increase advocacy and awareness in the community regarding programs and services affecting older adults.

Objective 1:

Develop a Speakers Bureau that will work with CSS to increase the awareness of the older population of the services available. Commissioners will go through a training program before making any speaking engagements.

Objective 2:

Update the LACCOA video and then have the Speakers Bureau play it at their speaking engagements.

Objective 3:

Update the LACCOA Outreach Scorecard on a continuous basis, demonstrating the community activity of LACCOA members.

Objective 4:

Assign the Speakers Bureau speaking engagements that will cover all five Supervisorial Districts.

Objective 5:

In 2014-2015, have at least five speaking engagements in each Supervisorial District and complete the LACCOA Outreach Scorecard.

Objective 6:

In 2015-2016, have at least five speaking engagements in each Supervisorial District and complete the LACCOA Outreach Scorecard.

STRATEGY 4: Celebrate and acknowledging the contributions of older adults in their respective communities.

Objective 1:

Work with the Board of Supervisors and CSS to host an annual event to acknowledge the contributions of older adults in their communities.

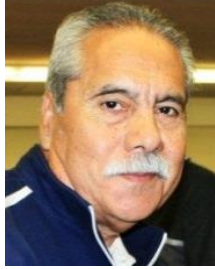


Meet the Commissioners

First Supervisorial District



Mary Helen Cruz



Robert Jimenez



Samuel Park



Charles Treviño

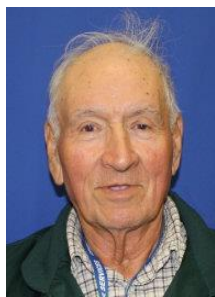


Vicente Zapata

Second Supervisorial District



Estella Beaver-Thomas



Frank Calderon



Mattye Fegan-Perry



Zelda Hutcherson



Charles Mitchell



Lonnie McNamee

Photo Not
Available

Wilma Pinder



Aida M. Villalobos



Richard Wolfe

Third Supervisorial District



Krishan Bhalla



Sol Fingold



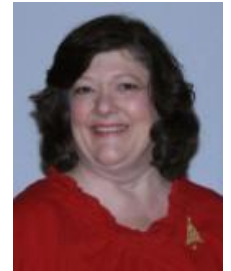
Marilyn Fried

Photo Not
Available

Irene Galvan



Peter Getzoff



Oleeta Igar



Paul Jhin



Barbara Meltzer



Anna Swett



Bernard Weintraub



Elizabeth
Wilson

Fourth Supervisorial District



Aziz Amiri



Gloria Duran



Ralph Flores



Irene Griffith



William Ha



Raymond Hall



Hedy Harrison



Julia Rosenberg



Cindy Skovgard



Patricia Stanyo

Fifth Supervisorial District



Natalie Ambrose



Margaret Belton



Nneenah Frazier



Diana Love



Peter McGrath



Arlene
Okamoto



Olga Sarabia



Marvin Schachter
Rest In Peace
(1924 – 2015)



Barbara Sinclair



Linda Yamauchi



LACCOA Committees in Action

Area Plan Committee

The **Area Plan Committee** worked with the CSS staff, reviewed the Area Plan Update, and prepared it for Public Hearings. Commissioners attended the hearings and served as Hearing Officers.

Issues addressed and brought to General Membership:

- Scam Alerts targeting Seniors;
- Elder Abuse Statistics;
- Members participated in Elder Financial Protection Network Summit;
- Information regarding long-term care benefits for Veterans Assisted Living;
- Homelessness issues affecting Veterans;
- Senior Employment (Title V) status;
- Age discrimination by employers; and
- Assisted in Public Hearings for the 2015-2016 Area Plan Update in conjunction with the City of Los Angeles Department of Aging.

Committee Chair: Nneenah Frazier

Committee Members: Raymond Hall, Wilma Pinder, Julia Rosenberg, Richard Wolfe

Communications Committee

The **Communication Committee** focused on taking all necessary steps to launch the LACCOA Speakers Bureau.

- Established a Speakers Bureau Team comprised of Commissioners.
- Conducted presentations throughout LA County

Committee Chair: Linda Yamauchi

Committee Members: Linda Yamauchi, Aida Villalobos

Health, Nutrition and Long-Term Care Committee

The **Health, Nutrition, and Long-Term Care Committee** worked with the CSS staff to select outstanding nutrition sites. They gathered information on the benefits of walking for in the “LA Seniors WALK” brochure.

- Commission Activities:
 - Distributed Walking and CalFresh flyers every month throughout year.
 - Provided supporting information for walking.

- Commission Activities in Cooperation with the Department of Senior Public Health.
 - Provided information on the salt reduction program.
 - Provided senior mental health information and resources.

Committee Chair: Irene Griffith

Committee Members: Peter Getzoff, William Ha, Cindy Skovgard, Vicente Zapata

Housing and Transportation Committee

The **Housing and Transportation Committee** studied and discussed housing issues in local communities throughout Los Angeles County. They worked with Los Angeles Metro to implement “On the Move Riders Club” and to simplify the use of TAP cards for seniors at Metro Vending Machines. Commissioners Mary Helen Cruz and Robert Jimenez continued to be instrumental in working with Metro.

Committee Chair: Robert Jimenez

Committee Members: Krishan Bhalla, Mary Helen Cruz, Samuel Park, Barbara Sinclair, Anna Swett

Legislative and Advocacy Committee

The **Legislative and Advocacy Committee** sent a letter to Senator Mariko Yamada, Chair of the Assembly Aging and Long-Term Care Committee, regarding Adult Protective Services, support for training, and state staffing. The letters also addressed the following:

- The reauthorization of the Older Americans Act
- Funding for Senior Nutrition Programs
- Funding for Adult Protective Services Training

The committee is in the process of creating an Advocacy Tool Kit. This project is in development and work will continue into fiscal year 2015-2016.

Committee Chair: Barbara Meltzer

Committee Members: Gloria Duran, Paul Jhin, Elizabeth Wilson

Membership Committee

The **Membership Committee** welcomed three new Commissioners in 2014-2015: Estella Beaver-Thomas, Margaret Belton, and Wilma Pinder. The committee has continued to recruit new members.

Committee Chair: Zelda Hutcherson

Committee Members: Estella Beaver-Thomas, Frank Calderon, Margaret Belton, Ralph Flores, Charles Mitchell, Olga Sarabia, Bernard Weintraub, Richard Wolfe

Commissioners in Action

LACCOA BYLAWS

In a year-long effort with input from all Commissioners, the Los Angeles County Counsel, and CSS, LACCOA revised their Bylaws, and they were approved by the Board of Supervisors on April 28, 2015. The new Bylaws went into effect July 1, 2015.

CONFERENCES

Commissioners attended the following conferences:

- 2014 National Association of Area Agencies on Aging in Dallas, Texas in July 2014.
- Morton Kesten Summit at University of Southern California Davis School of Gerontology in Los Angeles, California in October 2014.
- California Association of Area Agencies on Aging in Los Angeles, California in November 2014.
- 2014 Gerontological Society of America (GSA) Annual Meeting in Washington, DC in November 2014.
- 2015 Annual Conference of the American Society on Aging (ASA) in Chicago, Illinois in March 2015.

ADVOCACY

In September 2014, Assemblyman Matt Dabaneh, 45th District, sponsored a Town Hall meeting at the OneGeneration Center in Reseda, California. Speaking at the event were California Assemblywoman Mariko Yamada, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care and Cheryl Brown, member of the Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care. LACCOA had the opportunity to present information regarding its mission and the many programs for older adults of Los Angeles County.

Community and Senior Services (CSS) held six Public Hearings to discuss the 2015-2016 Area Plan Update, in partnership with the City of Los Angeles Department of Aging. The hearings were held in January 2015. Commissioners served as Hearing Officers at all of the hearings. Topics brought up by the public included the need for additional funding for meal programs, the need for more affordable housing for seniors, and the need for more reliable transportation options for seniors.

LACCOA conducted a presentation of AAA programs in the City of Wilmington, California that was attended by over 150 seniors in May 2015.

LACCOA Says Goodbye to a Friend



If we ever went off the track of our reason for being a LACCOA Commissioner, Marvin Schachter was there to get us right back to where we needed to be. Having spent many years on the former Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Advisory Council, he then served on the newly formed LACCOA where he was a longtime member of the Legislative and Advocacy Committee. Marvin never stopped wanting to make the world a better place and was a political activist for decades. He worked against social and economic injustice anywhere he found it.

Marvin was a lifetime member of the American Civil Liberties Union and in his later years Marvin championed causes for seniors, one of which was affordable housing for all. He also served on the United Nations Association, the California Commission on Aging, and the Center for Healthcare Rights.

A proponent of free press, Marvin was one of the original founders of the *Pasadena Weekly* in the 1980s. He wrote a column regarding current affairs until 2014.

Marvin is survived by his wife, Esther, his daughters, Pamela and Amanda, and two grandchildren, Max and Emma Rothschild.



Bernard Weintraub and Marvin Schachter



CSS Director Cynthia D. Banks and Marvin Schachter

50th Annual Older Americans Recognition Day (OARD)

Every year, May is recognized as Older Americans Recognition Month and encourages all Americans to acknowledge, honor, and celebrate older adults who have made a positive impact in their cities and communities. LACCOA, along with the Board of Supervisors, and Community and Senior Services (CSS), hosted the 50th Annual Older Americans Recognition Day (OARD) events on May 20, 2015, and May 21, 2015, to honor older Americans in Los Angeles County.

The 2015 theme was “***Get Into The Act.***”



President Villalobos, Supervisor Antonovich, Honoree Ann Bell, and CSS Director Cynthia D. Banks



President Villalobos, Honoree Robert Chapa, Sr., and CSS Director Cynthia D. Banks





CSS Director Cynthia D. Banks, Honoree Janice Cruikshank, Supervisor Knabe, and President Villalobos



President Villalobos, Honoree Bessie Stromiles, and CSS Director Cynthia D. Banks



President Villalobos, CSS Director Cynthia D. Banks, Honoree Jim Whitrock, and 3rd District Deputy Genethia Hudley-Hayes

Installation of Officers for 2015-2016



CSS Director Cynthia D. Banks (far left) with 2015-2016 LACCOA Officers Linda Yamauchi (President), Olga Sarabia (1st Vice President), Charles Treviño (2nd Vice President), Vicente Zapata (Secretary), Charles Mitchell (Fiscal Officer), and 5th District Deputy Michelle Vega

LACCOA also said farewell to ten of our colleagues who reached their term limits: Commissioners Krishan Bhalla, Mary Helen Cruz, Mattye Fegan-Perry, Marilyn Fried, Peter Getzoff, Raymond Hall, Zelda Hutcherson, Barbara Sinclair, Cindy Skovgard, and Aida Villalobos. Their work and dedication are to be commended. Their many years of volunteer service, as prior members of the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council or the former Los Angeles County Commission on Aging, are recognized and appreciated. Their service was very invaluable to LACCOA and the older adults within Los Angeles County.

Credits

Board of Supervisors.....	Hilda L. Solis, First District Mark Ridley-Thomas, Second District Sheila Kuehl, Third District Don Knabe, Fourth District Michael D. Antonovich, Fifth District, Mayor
Community and Senior Services Executive Management.....	Cynthia D. Banks, Director Otto Solórzano, Chief Deputy
Contributions.....	Barbara Meltzer, Commissioner
Editors/Layout/Design.....	Lorenza C. Sánchez, Assistant Director, Aging and Adult Services Branch Anna Avdalyan, Program Manager, Area Agency on Aging Corneitha Kirk, Human Services Administrator II Guillermo Medina, Human Services Administrator I Josephine Arriaga, Management Secretary III Barbara Thomas, Senior Secretary III Johnson Wang, Executive Assistant Monique Norman, Staff Assistant I Anna Musaderyan, Clerical Support
Photos.....	Benjie Uy, CSS Photographer



Los Angeles County Commission For Older Adults
3333 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 400
Los Angeles, CA 90010
(213) 351- 5274

To download a copy of this report please visit us at <http://css.lacounty.gov/>
or contact Guillermo Medina via email at gmedinajr@css.lacounty.gov