



Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults

2017-2018 Annual Report



*"You are never too old to set another goal
or to dream a new dream."*

~ C.S. Lewis

Visit us at:

<http://wdacs.lacounty.gov/laccoa.aspx>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors	1
A Message from Diana Love, LACCOA President	2
A Message from Cynthia D. Banks, WDACS Director	3
LACCOA Mission and Goals	4
2017-2018 LACCOA Executive Board	5
LACCOA Strategic Plan Update (July 2017 – June 2018)	6
2017-2018 Outreach and Advocacy	8
Meet the Commissioners	9
LACCOA Says Goodbye to a Friend	19
LACCOA Committees in Action	21
Commissioners Spotlight/ Commissioners in Action	23
Los Angeles’ Second Annual Older Adult Summit.....	24
53 rd Annual Older Americans Recognition Day.....	25
Installation of Officers for FY 2018-2019	31
Credits	32

LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA) would like to thank the Board of Supervisors for their ongoing support to the Commission and programs that promote an age-friendly living environment for the older adult population in Los Angeles County. In these tough times, the service needs for older adults are enormous. We were able to work with the Board of Supervisors to let our voices be heard at the state and federal level to address these service needs. With continued support from the Board of Supervisors, LACCOA is ready to take the lead in efforts to enhance the lives of every older adult in Los Angeles County.



Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor, First District



Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chairman
Supervisor, Second District



Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor, Third District



Janice Hahn
Supervisor, Fourth District

Board Deputies

Taylor Dudley, First District
Emily Williams, Second District
Rosaline George, Third District
Genethia Hudley-Hayes, Third District
Maral V. Karaccusian, Fourth District
Michelle Vega, Fifth District



Kathryn Barger
Supervisor, Fifth District



A MESSAGE FROM DIANA LOVE, LACCOA PRESIDENT



It was an incredible honor to serve as President of the Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA) for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. It is with great joy that I share this Annual Report, highlighting the accomplishments of the Commission, in partnership with Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS), City of Los Angeles Department of Aging (LADoA) and other County partners. I am proud to state that last year was a successful year in providing needed services to older adults in Los Angeles County.

I was honored to represent LACCOA at the California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) Conference in Los Angeles and the American Society on Aging (ASA) Conference in San Francisco, California. These conferences provided unique opportunities to network and learn from the experience of other similar agencies, and assisted in developing insights that were instrumental as we continue to advice on matters that affect the well-being of older adults.

LACCOA played instrumental roles in assisting with organizing and hosting the 2nd Annual Older Adult Summit on April 5, 2018 and the 53rd Annual Older Americans Recognition Day (OARD) on May 17, 2018. The summit provided informational resources and knowledge to the older adults in our community, with over 70 sponsors and 900 participants, to create a better community for older adults. The 53rd OARD luncheon allowed an opportunity to honor the contributions of 88 older adults within our community. I am grateful to the LACCOA Executive Board, my fellow Commissioners, and WDACS staff for making last year an incredible success. I am hopeful for the future of LACCOA and I know they will continue to make Los Angeles the best community for older adults.

Diana Love

Diana Love

2017-2018 LACCOA President

A MESSAGE FROM CYNTHIA D. BANKS, WDACS DIRECTOR



As the Director of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS), it is a privilege to share with you the hard work that the Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA) is doing to address the issues affecting the quality of life of the older adult population in Los Angeles County. The accomplishments within this Annual Report are testament of the hard work and dedication of the LACCOA Commissioners.

LACCOA continued to pioneer aging programs and services in Los Angeles to promote the well-being of the older adult population living in Los Angeles County. Without their contributions, ideas, and unwavering support, we would not have made such tremendous progress in the last fiscal year.

LACCOA should be applauded for its contribution to the success of the 2nd Annual Older Adult Summit on April 5, 2018, which was attended by over 900 participants. In addition, on May 17, 2018, the 53rd Annual Older Americans Recognition Day (OARD) event honored 88 older adults for their immense contributions to the communities they live and work in. LACCOA, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, WDACS, local elected officials from 88 cities, and senior center directors from across Los Angeles County came together to celebrate these older adults for fulfilling their promise to “**Engage at Every Age.**”

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate LACCOA on its accomplishments during 2017-2018 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
Workforce Development, Aging and Community 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 60 years of age and older to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS), and other entities that provide services to older adults regarding their needs, health, well-being, and rights.

To accomplish this mission, LACCOA:

- Assists County of Los Angeles in preparing to meet the increasing service needs of the older adult population.
- Networks and collaborates with other partners who are interested in and concerned regarding issues affecting older adults.
- Develops methods of communications which enhance and provide 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

- **Advise** the Board of Supervisors regarding needs of the older adult population in Los Angeles County.
- **Recognize** outstanding voluntary efforts and community service by older adults living in Los Angeles County.
- **Enhance** the distribution of LACCOA information and findings to the community at large and to appropriate Los Angeles County Departments.
- **Maintain** efforts to assist the older adult 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 of older adults, including minority older adults 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.

2017-2018 LACCOA EXECUTIVE BOARD

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 elected 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.



2017-2018 Executive Board: Kyo Paul Jhin, Second Vice President; Diana Love, President; Charles Mitchell, First Vice President; Arlene Okamoto, Secretary; Helen Romero Shaw, Fiscal Officer; and Linda Yamauchi, Past President.

LACCOA STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE (JULY 2017 – JUNE 2018)



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

MISSION: The mission of Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA) is to advocate, advise, and make recommendations regarding the needs and welfare of Los Angeles County older adults 60 years of age 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.

LACCOA developed the following Strategies and Objectives to guide its efforts in realizing its vision and mission in the period July 2016 – June 2020.

STRATEGY 1: Standing committees will continue to address immediate and long-term issues affecting the health, safety, and security of older adults in Los Angeles County and to facilitate the operation of LACCOA.

Objective 1:

By August of each year (2016-2020), standing committees will be formed, chairpersons selected, and goals developed for the coming year. Committees will meet monthly as necessary.

Objective 2:

Additional committees may be formed, as needed, to address immediate issues, pressing issues, or long-term needs.

STRATEGY 2: Advise Area Agency on Aging (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 Area Plan Updates each year (2016-2020).

Objective 1:

By July of each year (2016-2020), the Area Plan Committee will be formed to assist AAA staff at Public Hearings for input into the Area Plan Update.

LACCOA STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE (JULY 2017 – JUNE 2018)

Objective 2:

By January of each year (2017-2020), participate in Public Hearings for the Area Plan Update by encouraging attendance and community participation in the Public Hearings, attending and observing the hearings, and serving as Hearing Officers at the hearings as needed.

Objective 3:

Review the Area Plan Update each year (2017-2020).

STRATEGY 3: Advocate and increase awareness in the community regarding programs and services affecting older adults.

Objective 1:

The Speakers Bureau, composed of trained LACCOA Commissioners, will conduct presentations throughout Los Angeles County to increase the awareness of programs and services available to the older adult and disabled population.

Objective 2:

Develop a LACCOA video and make it available to the Speakers Bureau for use at their speaking engagements.

Objective 3:

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

Objective 4:

The Speakers Bureau will participate in speaking engagements that will cover all five (5) Supervisorial Districts.

Objective 5:

Develop a flyer that provides information regarding the Speakers Bureau for distribution throughout Los Angeles County.

STRATEGY 4: Celebrate and acknowledge the contributions that older adults make in their respective communities.

Objective 1:

Work with the Board of Supervisors and Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS) to host annual events to celebrate and acknowledge the contributions that older adults make in their communities.

2017 – 2018 OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY

In July 2017, LACCOA submitted a letter to the California State Congress requesting their financial support in the Adult Protective Services (APS) Home Safe program. This program was at the top of LACCOA's list at the beginning of the 2017-2018 fiscal year as the number of abuse and neglect cases facing APS has been on the rise since 2015. Supporting this program meant that there would be more resources available to APS to aid in the effort of decreasing the number of homeless older adults. APS works to end abuse and neglect among older adult communities and granting them more funding would make a difference in the resources they themselves are able to provide to the greater community.

In July 2017, LACCOA requested legislative support of the Aging & Disability Resource Connection Bill (AB 1200 Cervantes Bill). With legislative support, this bill would create resources and support for not only older adults and disabled individuals but also their families and their caregivers. These resources are key to helping older adults and their families in making informed decisions regarding the services and programs available to them. LACCOA requested the legislative support of this bill because it is essential in ensuring that the programs and services offered actually reach the individuals they are intended for. LACCOA works to provide resources to older adults within Los Angeles County, but also to the individuals that support and help the older adults.

In addition, to support for AB 1200 Cervantes Bill, LACCOA also requested legislative support for AB 614 Limón. This bill pushed for support in resources specific to Alzheimer's and Dementia patients including the implementation of an Information and Assistance unit specifically for Alzheimer's and Dementia within Area Agency on Aging. The Alzheimer's Association agreed to partner with and train the Information and Assistance specialists and provide them with resources.

Within the last fiscal year, LACCOA also submitted to both the House and the Senate to ask them to support the federally funded programs that were created to aid in the fight against hunger. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program helps provide educational presentations to older adults within their communities. Because of programs like this, older adults can be more aware of the foods they are eating and how they affect their health overall, allowing them to have the knowledge to make more informed decisions about their diets.

Not only did LACCOA write to the House and the Senate but they also reached out to Metro to assess the fund allocation towards transportation services in Los Angeles County. Within their letter they mentioned the need to improve the quality of public transportation stops as well as expanding the funding allocation to also consider low income older adults and disabled individuals. LACCOA discussed how a 2% fund allocation was provided to assess and provide for the needs of all populations and how imperative it was that this percentage increase in order that resources be provided for all the unique populations within Los Angeles County.

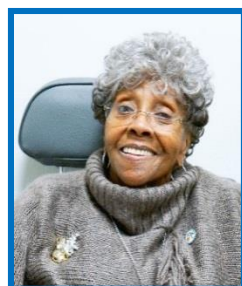
Each year during the month of June, the California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) seeks to bring awareness to elder and dependent adult abuse by launching a month-long education and resource campaign. Both LACCOA and members of WDACS were present at the conference learning from several professionals about the several aspects of providing services to aging populations. Many topics were discussed including long-term care, aging and health care options for older adults; this knowledge was then used during the rest of the year.

MEET THE COMMISSIONERS



ESTELLA BEAVER-THOMAS

Commissioner Estella “ET” Beaver-Thomas has volunteered and is a member of the Congress of California Seniors, the California Senior Legislature, the California Association of Retired Americans, the Service Employees International Union 721 Senior Committee, and the City of Los Angeles Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Council. Commissioner Estella Beaver-Thomas joined LACCOA in May 2014.



MARGARET “MAGGIE” BELTON

Commissioner Margaret “Maggie” Belton is a retired Registered Nurse and Clinical Social Worker. She worked for the Personal Assistance Services Council from 2000-2005, and for St. Joseph’s Hospital from 1975-1980. She is currently an In-Home Supportive Services Stakeholder Advisory Committee Member. Commissioner Margaret Belton joined LACCOA in December 2013.



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.



MARVA COOPER BELL

Commissioner Marva Cooper Bell is a retired Human Services Manager. Since retiring, Commissioner Bell with more than 35 years of experience provides human resource management support to non-profit organizations, universities, and corporations. She also spends time volunteering at Jenesse Center, a domestic violence intervention program. Commissioner Marva Cooper Bell joined LACCOA in March 2016.

MEET THE COMMISSIONERS



ALICE CRAFT

Commissioner Alice Craft is a retired Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Special Education Assistant, and has over 10 years of experience serving as a caregiver for older adults. She received numerous awards from organizations such as Boy Scouts of America, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, LAUSD, and Service Employees International Union. Commissioner Alice Craft joined LACCOA in March 2016.



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 58th 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.



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.

MEET THE COMMISSIONERS



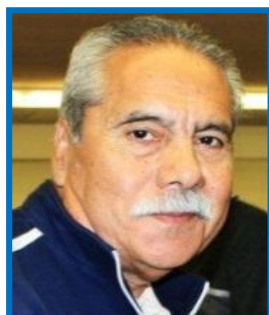
OLEETA IGAR

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, 1st VICE PRESIDENT

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. Commissioner Kyo Paul Jhin joined LACCOA in July 2014.



ROBERT JIMENEZ

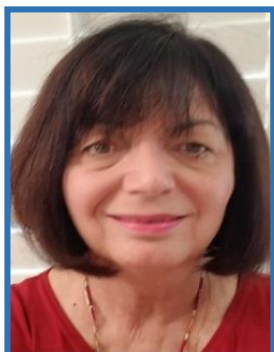
Commissioner Robert Jimenez is a retired auto industry worker. He proudly served in the Vietnam War from 1965-1967. Commissioner Jimenez served as an Elected Official of the United States Workers Union, President of the Board of Directors for the Congress of California Seniors, and Area Counsel Vice President for the United Auto Workers Retirees Council. Commissioner Robert Jimenez joined LACCOA in January 2012.



DIANA LOVE, PRESIDENT

Commissioner Diana Love is a retired 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. President Diana Love joined LACCOA in April 2015.

MEET THE COMMISSIONERS



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. Cathy served as Commissioner in Social Services for the City of Whittier for 10 years working to enhance the non-profit community in Whittier. Commissioner Cathy McClure joined LACCOA in January 2018.



PETER MCGRATH

Commissioner Peter McGrath, Veteran of the United States Navy, is a retiree of the industrial industry. He spent many years as manager in sales and production. Commissioner McGrath is a member of the Burbank Board of Education, Burbank Noon Rotary, Burbank Housing Corporation, and the California Senior Legislature. The City of Burbank recognized his service to the community on several occasions. Commissioner Peter McGrath joined LACCOA in January 2016.



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 50th Annual Older Americans Recognition Day Awards. Commission Gayle McKinney joined LACCOA in May 2015.



BARBARA MELTZER

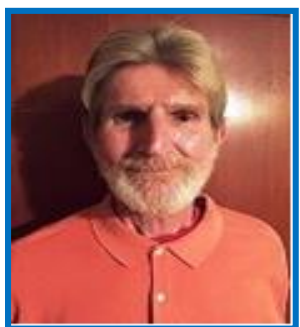
Commissioner Barbara Meltzer is a President of Barbara Meltzer & Associates, a Los Angeles-based Public Relations and Marketing Agency, specializing in nonprofits, authors and aging-related education, services and products. Prior to opening her agency, Commissioner Meltzer served as NBC-TV's Director 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. Commissioner Barbara Meltzer joined LACCOA in July 2017.

MEET THE COMMISSIONERS



IRENE MENDOZA

Commissioner Irene Mendoza retired from Svorinich Government Affairs, and served twelve years as District Director of Constituent Services for Los Angeles City Council District 15. She worked with the community on several projects including the Vincent Thomas Bridge Lighting, Wilmington Senior Center, Banning Landing Community Center, and the Fishing Memorial Monument. She served on numerous non-profit boards, and currently is an active member of the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce, YWCA of LA Harbor Area, and San Pedro Wednesday Senior Club. Commissioner Irene Mendoza joined LACCOA in September 2017.



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.



CHARLES MITCHELL, 2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Commissioner Charles Mitchell is a Veteran of the United States Marine Corps and a retired Microbiologist. He has 25 years of legislative experience. That experience led him to serve as Vice President of Legal and Public Affairs for Blue Cross and Blue Shield. He currently volunteers with the California Senior Legislature, AAA Council for the City of Los Angeles, and Veterans of West Los Angeles. Commissioner Charles Mitchell joined LACCOA in September 2014.

MEET THE COMMISSIONERS



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.



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.

MEET THE COMMISSIONERS



HELEN ROMERO SHAW, FISCAL OFFICER

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 Board of Directors, and East Los Angeles College Foundation Board of Directors. She was awarded the Breaking Glass Ceiling Award by the Latina Golfers Association and the Women of Distinction Award given by Business Life Magazine. Commissioner Helen Romero Shaw joined LACCOA in June 2015.



JULIA ROSENBERG

Commissioner Julia Rosenberg is a retired Personnel Director. Her enthusiasm for advocating on behalf of older adults led her to become a Senior Assembly Member, Los Angeles County Commissioner, and Legislative Director of the Women's Club of California. Commissioner Julia Rosenberg joined LACCOA in June 2012.



MARY ALICE SEDILLO

Commissioner Mary Alice Sedillo is a retired Real Estate Broker. She currently serves as Chair for the Long Beach Senior Citizens Advisory Commission and Treasurer of the Gray Panthers. Her memberships include California Alliance for Retired Americans, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, San Pedro Chamber of Commerce, and Congress of California Seniors. Commissioner Mary Alice Sedillo joined LACCOA in November 2016.



ARVIS SPRIGGS

Commissioner Arvis Spriggs is a retired Operational Network Technician. She dedicates her time to service the older adults in Inglewood, California, rotating between four senior centers. Commissioner Arvis Spriggs is also a member of the City of Inglewood Senior Advisory Committee and Senior Project Advisory Council. In 2007 she received the Older American Recognition Day Award in recognition of her outstanding volunteer service. Commissioner Arvis Spriggs joined LACCOA in January 2016.

MEET THE COMMISSIONERS



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. Commissioner Patricia Stanyo 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.



ANNA SWETT

Commissioner Anna Swett is a retired Paralegal and Legal Secretary. For 34 years, she volunteered as a Peer Advocate with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. She received recognition for her volunteer service from Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael Antonovich, 5th Supervisorial District, Senator Barbara Boxer, Mayor James Hahn, and Congresswoman Yvonne Burke. Commissioner Anna Swett joined LACCOA in September 2014.



LAVADA THEUS

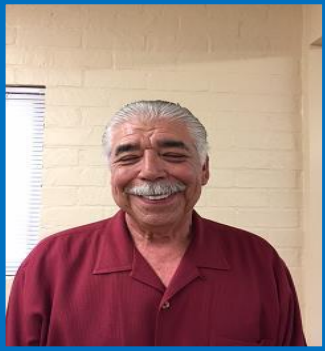
Commissioner Lavada Theus is a retired school administrator. Her desire to assist in making the lives of older adults easier led her to volunteer with the California Senior Legislature, where she currently serves as Chairperson. She is also Co-chair of the 2nd Supervisorial District Senior Services Committee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

MEET THE COMMISSIONERS



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. Commissioner Treviño joined LACCOA in August 2014.



TANYA WITT, SECRETARY

Commissioner Tanya Witt 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. Commissioner Witt, joined LACCOA in April of 2016.



RICHARD WOLFE

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. Commissioner Richard Wolfe joined LACCOA in July 2014.

MEET THE COMMISSIONERS



LINDA YAMAUCHI, PAST PRESIDENT

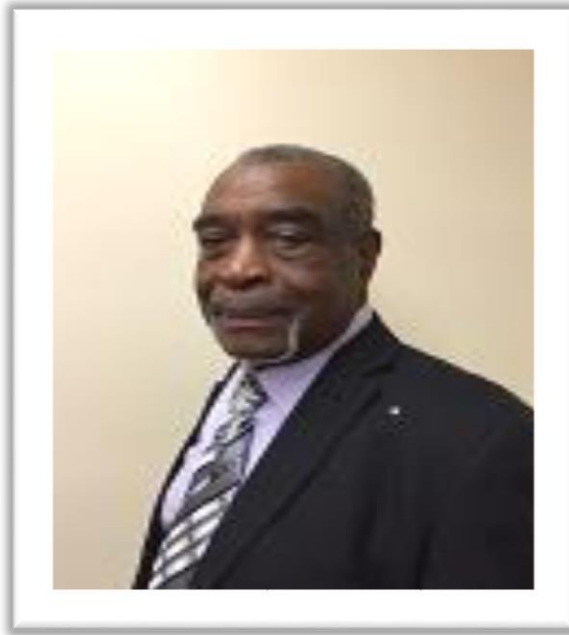
Commissioner Linda Yamauchi is a retired Manager of Consumer Affairs, Southern California Edison Company. She is on the Executive Board of the Little Tokyo Service and Center of Asian Pacific American Women. President Yamauchi was the recipient of the LINK award from LACCOA, Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute Fellow, Greater Los Angeles YWCA Outstanding Woman, and County of Los Angeles Commission on Status of Women. Commissioner Linda Yamauchi joined LACCOA in May 2012.



CANDACE YEE

Commissioner Candace (Candy) Yee was a Special Education Home Teacher for 37 years. She has been appointed to the City of Cerritos Let Freedom Ring Committee for nine years. Candy, as a member of the Women's Club of Artesia-Cerritos, tutors children weekly at the Artesia Library. She is involved in helping two U.S.C. organizations raise funds for scholarships. Candy has been a volunteer usher at the Cerritos Center of the Performing Arts Center for 25 years. Commissioner Candace Yee joined LACCOA in 2017.

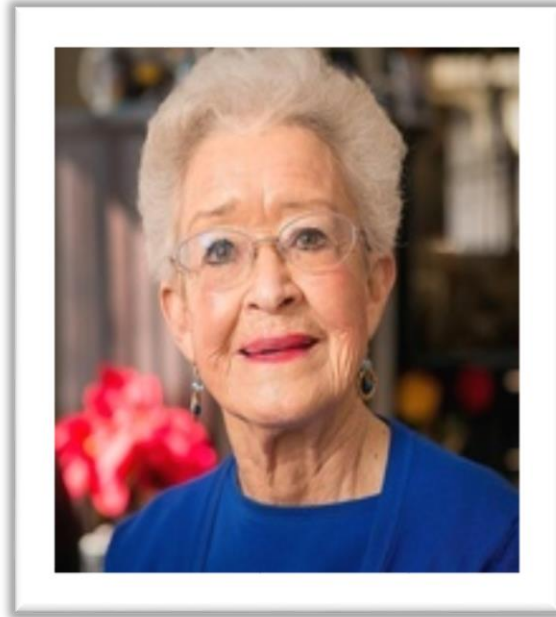
LACCOA SAYS GOODBYE TO A FRIEND



Charles Mitchell

A retired Veteran of the United States Marine Corps, Charles Mitchell continued to serve the world around him even after his time in the military. With his 27 years of legislative experience, he was able to become an integral part of many organizations. He served as Vice President of Legal and Public Affairs for Blue Cross and Blue Shield. His passion for advocacy led him to volunteer with the California State Legislature, AAA Council for the City of Los Angeles, and Veterans of West Los Angeles. All of these experiences earned him an Ann Mark Award for his work as the first in his legislative session. Charles joined LACCOA in September 2014 and showed his commitment to LACCOA during his term as Second Vice President. Everyone around him trusted in his leadership and admired him for his legislative experience and kind nature. He will truly be missed.

LACCOA SAYS GOODBYE TO A FRIEND



Gloria Duran

Gloria Duran dedicated her life to the greater community and to advocacy. She was an ideal community activist, serving on several different community boards. Gloria served as a LACCOA Commissioner from 2010-2016 and volunteered on the Executive Board several times. In addition to her time in LACCOA, she served on the Los Nietos School Board for 16 years. Her desire to draw attention and advocate for underrepresented groups in the community was so strong she even jumped out of a plane to raise money for HIV/AIDS. Her other community engagements included her time with the Santa Fe Springs Family and Human Services Advisory Committee. She also chaired the Santa Fe Springs Senior Citizen Advisory Committee. All who knew her were touched by her vibrant spirit and inspired by her drive and purpose. We honor Gloria for all of her efforts over her many years; she will truly be missed.

LACCOA COMMITTEES IN ACTION

Area Plan Committee

The **Area Plan Committee** used information on the demographic representation within communities to increase participation and attendance at Public Hearings. By using data from the surrounding areas, the Commissioners were encouraged to attend Public Hearings. The committee worked with Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS) to establish future meeting sites that will increase diversity and participation at Public Hearings.

Committee Chair: Elvia Torres

Committee Members: Kyo Paul Jhin, Candace Yee, Sylvia G. Youngblood

Communications Committee

The **Communications Committee** discussed how to improve attendance at Public Hearings. By working with the Area Plan Committee, they were able to create more flyers and publicize the hearings more effectively. Because of the large diversity of the County, they worked to publicize the hearings in an inclusive way to attract all demographics to participate and attend Public Hearings.

Committee Chair: Barbara Meltzer

Committee Members: Diana Love, Arvis Spriggs, Linda Yamauchi

Health, Nutrition, and Long-Term Care Committee

The **Health, Nutrition, and Long-Term Care Committee** was able to disseminate information as we gathered it to the Commission and older adults in our respective areas. We reported on status of homeless date for those 55+ and discussed the plight of persons on SSI/SSP. We disseminated a study which showed a link between a diet of leafy greens and mental acuity in older adults. We advocated stopping cuts to senior programs and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. We discussed the limits and frustrations in the Alzheimer's research field.

Committee Chair: Robert Boller

Committee Members: Gayle McKinney, Arlene Okamoto, Anna Swett

LACCOA COMMITTEES IN ACTION

Housing and Transportation Committee

The **Housing and Transportation Committee** worked towards the fight against homelessness this year. They worked in combination with the other LACCOA committees to voice their opinions to legislative bodies regarding several bills throughout the year. One of their key acts this year was the letter they wrote to the Mayor in regards to Measure M where they discussed the importance of allocating funds to all communities using public transportation, specifically disabled and older adult communities.

Committee Chair: Peter Mezza

Committee Members: Alice Craft, Robert Jimenez, Sheila Moore, Michael Neely

Legislative and Advocacy Committee

The **Legislative and Advocacy Committee** has completed a successful year focused on addressing its established goals through its monthly meetings and attendance at conferences. With the support of WDACS staff the committee was able to achieve success by remaining active in legislative proposals and key issues affecting older adults within the County of Los Angeles. They drafted communications to the Board of Supervisors to establish funding for the *Home Safe Demonstration Program* to provide resources for victims of elder abuse and neglect served by APS. In addition to writing to the Board of Supervisors, they also wrote letters to the House and the Senate to voice LACCOA's stance on other pressing issues facing the older adult community.

Committee Chair: Jerry Gaines

Committee Members: Marva Cooper Bell, Mary Alice Sedillo, Carmen Reyes, Helen Romero Shaw, Patricia Stanyo, Dancingwater Taylor, Lavada Theus, Tanya Witt

Membership Committee

The **Membership Committee** is responsible for continually monitoring attendance records in accordance with the LACCOA Bylaws. In addition, they update the membership application when necessary and create methods of encouraging Commissioner attendance at meetings.

Committee Chair: Margaret Belton

Committee Members: Raymond Hall, Oleeta Igar, Peter McGrath, Charles Mitchell, Elizabeth Payne, Richard Wolfe, Bernie Weintraub

COMMISSIONER SPOTLIGHT

In addition to being a member of LACCOA, Commissioner Peter Mezza trains LAPD juvenile detectives and officers regarding teen suicide and its effect on families; helps to raise funds, speaks to middle and high school students, and assists in legislative advocacy.



COMMISSIONERS IN ACTION

This past year LACCOA Commissioners participated in local and out-of-state conferences and summits.

Date	Conference/Summit	Location
July 29, 2017- August 1, 2017	National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) Conference	Savannah, Georgia
November 14-16, 2017	California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) Conference	Los Angeles, California
March 2, 2018	LA's First Technology and Aging Conference	Los Angeles, California
March 26-29, 2018	Annual Conference of the American Society on Aging (ASA) Conference	San Francisco, California
April 5, 2018	Los Angeles' Second Annual Older Adult Summit	Pasadena, California
May 8, 2018	Senior Rally Day	Sacramento, California
May 16, 2018	15 th Annual Leadership Conference	Los Angeles, California
May 17, 2018	53 rd Annual Older Adult Recognition Day (OARD)	Los Angeles, California
June 1, 2018	9 th Annual Los Angeles Aging Advocacy Coalition (LAAAC) Summit on Aging	Los Angeles, California

LOS ANGELES' SECOND ANNUAL OLDER ADULT SUMMIT



Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS) joined the City of Los Angeles Department of Aging, and AARP to host the Second Annual Older Adult Summit on April 5, 2018, at the Pasadena Convention Center in Pasadena, California. This summit was a collaborative effort of stakeholders from the aging and long-term care communities and was co-sponsored by Purposeful Aging, County of Los Angeles, City of Los Angeles, City of Los Angeles Department of Aging, and AARP. The diversity of participation and strong support among the aging and social network made this an exciting event. The summit was attended by over 900 older adults from Los Angeles County.

LACCOA Commissioners played a vital role in the success of the summit by greeting and assisting attendees at the registration table, moderating workshops, directing attendees to vendor booths, and assisting WDACS staff with distributing and collecting evaluations.



From left to right, Commissioners: Alice Craft, Barbara Meltzer, Gayle McKinney, Helen Romero Shaw, Linda Yamauchi, Diana Love, Arlene Okamoto, Peter McGrath, Jerry Gaines, and Candace Yee

53RD ANNUAL OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION DAY



Each year in the month of May, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) leads the nation's celebration of Older Americans Month. The theme for 2018 was "Engage at Every Age." This year's theme highlights the shift in what it means to age. More than ever before, older adults are living longer, working longer, being active, striving for independence, and advocating for themselves and others. Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA), the Board of Supervisors, and Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS) hosted the 53rd Annual Older Americans Recognition Day (OARD) event on May 17, 2018. The 53rd Annual OARD event honored 90 older adults for their volunteer efforts and positive impact in the cities and communities they live in.



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INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS FOR FY 2018-2019



From left to right: Executive Board Members: Commissioner Tanya Witt, Secretary; Commissioner Kyo (Paul) Jhin, Second Vice President; Commissioner Diana Love, President; Commissioner Helen Romero Shaw, First Vice President; Commissioner Arlene Okamoto, Fiscal Officer

On June 5, 2018, the Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA) General Board members voted and the 2018-2019 Executive Board was sworn into office by Deputy Stephanie Cohen from the office of Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Third District. The 2018-2019 Executive Board will serve from July 1, 2018, until June 30, 2019.



CREDITS

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