



# Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults



## FY 2021 – 2022 Annual Report



*“There is a fountain of youth: It is your mind, your talents, the creativity you bring to your life and the lives of people you love. When you learn to tap this source, you will truly have defeated age”*

*-Sophia Loren*



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## LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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The Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA) would like to acknowledge the support provided by the Board of Supervisors to LACCOA in its ongoing advocacy efforts to address issues that are confronting the older adult population in Los Angeles County. As available data shows, the older population in Los Angeles is growing both in number and as a share of the population. Between 2010 and 2030, the share of Angelinos aged 60 and over will rise from 16% of the population to 27%, increasing to 37% by 2060. Los Angeles has a large and growing older adult population, and systems to serve them will need to expand and adapt to meet their needs. With the continued support from the Board of Supervisors, LACCOA is ready to contribute its share through its advisory role to improve the lives of every older adult in Los Angeles County.



**Janice Hahn**  
Supervisor, 4<sup>th</sup> District

**Hilda L. Solis**  
Supervisor, 1<sup>st</sup> District

**Holly J. Mitchell** *Chairman*  
Supervisor, 2<sup>nd</sup> District

**Sheila Kuehl**  
Supervisor, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

**Kathryn Barger**  
Supervisor, 5<sup>th</sup> District

### Board Deputies

- Hoang Nguyen**, First District
- Tami Omoto-Frias**, First District
- Diana Vargas**, First District
- Kelvin Driscoll**, Second District
- Caroline Torosis**, Second District
- Rosaline George**, Third District
- Genethia Hudley-Hayes**, Third District
- Maral V. Karaccusian**, Fourth District
- Monica Banken**, Fifth District



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## A MESSAGE FROM KIM BOWMAN, JR., LACCOA PRESIDENT

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I would like to express my appreciation to all my fellow LACCOA members for allowing me to be your president for 2021-2022. We have made many changes in our structure that have set the foundation for the future of LACCOA.

LACCOA worked with the Board of Supervisors and the Aging & Disabilities Department to reduce LACCOA from 50 Commissioners to 25. This will streamline our advocacy work to protect our most vulnerable population in Los Angeles County. We have also worked on updating our Bylaws to represent our current structure.

LACCOA has worked hard to bring awareness on issues that are affecting older adults: affordable housing, addressing the older adult homeless population, the pandemic and its effect on older adults' mental well-being, and other issues that continue to affect our elderly population.

I would like to say a great thank you to all outgoing Commissioners: Dallian Carter, Kristine Choulakian, Gene Dorio, Eloise Evans, Ruth Gonzales, Yolanda Gorman, Raymond Hall, Aida Morales, Carmen Reyes, Joshua Sneed, Maria Wiest, and Sylvia Youngblood. Their advocacy work is to be commended.

I would also like to thank the Aging & Disabilities Department (AD) administrative staff for their work, dedication, and support to LACCOA.

I look forward to working with the incoming 2022-2023 Executive Board as we continue our work.

*Kim Bowman, Jr.*

Kim Bowman, Jr.

2021-2022 LACCOA President

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## A MESSAGE FROM OTTO SOLÓRZANO, WDACS ACTING DIRECTOR

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My name is Otto Solórzano, and I served as the Acting Director of the Los Angeles County Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS) until June 30, 2022.

I want to acknowledge all LACCOA members for your wonderful contributions to our aging communities. Our department appreciates your dedication to your advocacy work.



The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has shown many obstacles that older adults face to age gracefully, with dignity, and respect. It has also shown what resiliency means. LACCOA has been at the forefront of advocating for additional resources to assist those in most of need.

As you may know, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has created its own Aging & Disabilities Department. This new aging department will be able to serve the County's entire older adult and disabled adult population with innovative programs and services that will strengthen Los Angeles' Age-Friendly Initiative.

Getting older does not mean what it used to. For many aging, it is a phase of life where interests, goals, and dreams can get a new or second start. Today, aging is about eliminating outdated perceptions and living the way that suits your own lifestyle. LACCOA is here to prove that every day.

It has been an honor working with all the Commissioners on their advocacy work. On behalf of the County of Los Angeles and WDACS, thank you for your dedication to your communities and our department.

Sincerely,

*Otto Solórzano*

Otto Solórzano, Acting Director

Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services

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## A MESSAGE FROM DR. LAURA TREJO, DIRECTOR, AGING & DISABILITIES

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I am Dr. Laura Trejo, the Director of the newly established Los Angeles County Aging & Disabilities Department.

I want to thank LACCOA Executive Officers and commissioners, for your work during FY 2021-2022. This year had come with challenges, which included the restructuring of LACCOA, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and the many challenges that come with getting older.



We also celebrated Older Americans Month by having a virtual event. All of you defined the year's theme, Age My Way, by advocating for the older adult community in Los Angeles County. LACCOA also acknowledged June 15, 2022, as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

As we launched the new Aging & Disabilities Department, your assistance in getting the word out of the new Department was incredible and appreciated. We shared ideas on how LACCOA could assist with the new Department and how we can assist LACCOA with your mission of advocacy.

I would like to thank the current Executive Board, for their service to LACCOA and the older adults in Los Angeles County. President Kim Bowman, Vice President Kiera Pollock, and Treasurer Cathy McClure did an amazing job during the transition period that LACCOA and the Aging & Disabilities Department went through. Many exciting changes have continued to happen in the subsequent months, and I am excited that LACCOA will continue to be a big part of this transition.

Lastly, I want to congratulate and welcome in the new Executive Officers. President-elect Helen Romero Shaw, Vice President Keira Pollock, and Treasure Cathy McClure. I look forward to working with you and the rest of LACCOA in FY 2022/23 and beyond.

Thank you for your time.

*Dr. Laura Trejo*

Dr. Laura Trejo, Director  
Los Angeles County Aging & Disabilities Department

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## LACCOA MISSION AND GOALS

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### **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.
- The general public.



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## 2021-2022 LACCOA EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

The Commission is comprised of 25 appointed by the Board of Supervisors. 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. Due to the pandemic, all meetings have been held online through Microsoft Teams.

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.



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## LACCOA STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE (JULY 2020 – JUNE 2024)

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LACCOA has developed the following Objectives and Strategies to guide its efforts in realizing its vision and mission during the period of July 2020 – June 2024.

**OBJECTIVE 1:** Standing committees will continue to address immediate, emerging, and long-term issues affecting the health, safety, and well-being of older adults in Los Angeles County, in addition to facilitating the operation of LACCOA.

Strategy 1:

By August of each year (2020-2024), standing committees will be formed, chairpersons selected, and goals will be developed for the coming year. Committees will meet monthly, or more as necessary.

Strategy 2:

Ad Hoc Committees may be formed, as needed, to address immediate and emerging issues or long-term needs.

**OBJECTIVE 2:** Advise the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) staff on all matters relating to the needs and welfare of Los Angeles County older adults. This includes the planning process and implementation of the Area Plan Public Hearings. This will take place annually (2020-2024).

Strategy 1:

By July of each year (2020-2024), the Area Plan Committee will be formed to assist AAA staff in preparing and suggesting sites for Area Plan Update Public Hearings.

Strategy 2:

By September of each year (2021-2024), Area Plan Committee members will assist in encouraging attendance and community participation in the Public Hearings, will attend and observe the hearings, and will serve as Hearing Officers as needed.

Strategy 3:

Area Plan Committee members will review the Area Plan Update each year (2021-2024).

**OBJECTIVE 3:** Increase awareness throughout the Los Angeles County regarding initiatives, programs, and services that are available for older adults. Accomplish this by advocating, educating, and communicating in collaboration with partners.

Strategy 1:

Develop or utilize already existing methods in order to generate awareness. These include the LACCOA PowerPoint Presentation, a newsletter, an outreach plan to senior centers, letters to the Board of Supervisors, and others.

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## LACCOA STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE (JULY 2020 – JUNE 2024)

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Strategy 2:

Create Ad Hoc Committees as stated in the Bylaws to have Commissioners be part of the various initiatives in Los Angeles County, such as Age Friendly Cities, Homeless Initiative, Purposeful Aging Los Angeles (PALA) and its domains, and others that are meant to enhance the lives of older adults.

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

Strategy 1:

Create an Ad Hoc Committee to work on the Older Americans Recognition Day (OARD) Luncheon.

Strategy 2:

Collaborate with the Board of Supervisors and all relevant partners in Los Angeles County to produce the OARD event.



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## 2021 – 2022 ADVOCACY

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In August 2021, LACCOA held a Panel—Nursing Home Licensure and Regulation. Commissioner Michael Neely served as moderator on the panel that consisted of Molly Davies, Vice President of WISE and Healthy Aging; Max Huntsman, Inspector General of Los Angeles County; and Aaron Mendelson, KPCC reporter.

In September 2021, LACCOA hosted Dr. Paul Simon, Chief Science Officer, Public Health Department, to discuss the ongoing pandemic and its effect on older adults in Los Angeles County.

In October 2021, LACCOA hosted a presentation, Housing Crisis: Insecurity, Availability, and Affordability. The presentation was done by Patti Prunhuber, Senior Staff Attorney for Housing, Justice in Aging.

In November 2021, LACCOA hosted a Homelessness and Older Adults roundtable: What is Being Done to Help and How? The roundtable was moderated by Commissioner Kimberly Lewis. The roundtable consisted of: Jean Galiana, Gerontologist, Older Adult Coordinator—Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority; Va Lecia Kellum, Ph.D., President & CEO, St. Joseph Center; and Jenna Hauss, MSW, Gerontologist, President & CEO, ONEgeneration.

In January 2022, LACCOA hosted a presentation: Renewing and Restoring in the Time of COVID. The presentation was moderated by Commissioner Barbara Meltzer. The panel consisted of: Dr. Haydeh Fakhrabadi, Psy.D., Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, Older Adults System of Care Bureau, and Maureen Feldman, Director of the Motion Picture and Television Fund Social Isolation and Impact Project.

In March 2022, LACCOA hosted a presentation: Abuse of Older Adults. The presentation was made by Eden Ruiz-Lopez, MPA Operations Director of the National Center on Elder Abuse, Keck School of Medicine, University of South California.

In April 2022, LACCOA hosted a presentation: LA Metro's on the Move Riders Program. The presentation was done by Mark Arroyo, Principal Community Relations Officer, and Brittany Mullins, Principal Community Relations Officer.

In June 2022, LACCOA hosted Dr. Donna Benton, Assistant Dean of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Research Associate Professor. Dr. Benton discussed The Current State of Family Caregivers.

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## MEET THE COMMISSIONERS

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**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 Boller joined LACCOA in February 2016.



**Kim Bowman**

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



**Dalian Carter**

Commissioner Dalian Carter is a graduate of the University of La Verne where she earned her Master of Science, Gerontology with a concentration in Geriatric Care Management. She completed studies at California State University Dominguez Hills where she received a bachelor's degree in Sociology, Behavioral Science. She has more than fifteen years of leadership experience in operating multi-Purpose Centers and building collaborative partnerships designed to garner community insight into health disparities and health access issues. Commissioner Carter joined LACCOA in February 2020.



**Kristine Choulakian**

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

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## MEET THE COMMISSIONERS

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Gene Dorio, M.D.

Commissioner Gene Dorio, M.D. served the Santa Clarita Valley in the 5th District as a Geriatric physician providing house calls to homebound older adults and the disabled. For two years, he served as President of LACCOA, and was also elected 1st Vice President. Additionally, he is an Assembly member of the California Senior Legislature and attends the Triple-A Council of California on behalf of Los Angeles County. He was raised in Southern California attending Los Angeles High School and Occidental College. After medical school, he completed his residency at UC Irvine, then moved to Santa Clarita where he remained on the hospital staff for over 30 years. There, he was on the Medical Executive Committee and was Chairman of the Department of Medicine for three years. Locally, he has been a member of multiple non-profit organizations serving the older adult population, and most proudly on the SCV Senior Center Advisory Council. He joined LACCOA in October 2018



Jerry Gaines

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



Ruth 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 Gonzales joined LACCOA in September 2015.



Yolanda J. Gorman

Commissioner Dr. Yolanda Gorman is the Senior Advisor and Chief of Staff to the Chancellor at UCLA. Previously, Dr. Gorman was president and CEO of Phillips Graduate University. She is a professor of research and organizational management. Committed to civic engagement, Dr. Gorman serves on several non-profit boards and is a Governor's appointee to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy. Dr. Gorman has her B.A., M.B.A., and a Ph.D. from UCLA. Commissioner Gorman joined LACCOA in November 2018.

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## MEET THE COMMISSIONERS

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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, Inc. was developed to recognize senior Veterans for their life service. He volunteers for the California Senior Legislature and the American Legion Post 109. Commissioner Hall joined LACCOA in October 2016.



Kyo R. Paul Jhin

Commissioner Kyo R. 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 Jhin joined LACCOA in July 2020.



John A. Kotick

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



Kimberly Lewis

Commissioner Kimberly Lewis started advocating for the homeless and older adult populations at the age of 15. She directed a women’s shelter in South L.A. and worked for LAHSA, and other service providers. She is a member of the FBI’s Faith Base & Community Leaders Initiative, and alumni of two USC’s Civic Engagement programs. Currently, she is the Founder and Director of the “I Did Something Good Today” Foundation, which is dedicated to the creation of various programs that combat social isolation within the older adult population. Commissioner Lewis joined LACCOA in 2020.

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## MEET THE COMMISSIONERS

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Cathy McClure

Commissioner Cathy McClure is a professional fundraising Consultant. She serves as Secretary on the LACCOA Executive Board. She worked for Woodcraft Rangers and the Discovery Cube Los Angeles as a Development Director, and for over 20 years, she raised needed funds for the United Way of Greater Los Angeles. She served on the board of the Rio Hondo Chapter of the American Red Cross and was the first woman chairperson and served as Commissioner in Social Services for the City of Whittier for 10 years. She is the proud mother of a son, daughter and four beautiful granddaughters. Commissioner McClure joined LACCOA in January 2018.



Barbara Meltzer

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



Sheila Moore

Commissioner Sheila Moore, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, is the Senior Director of Comprehensive Older Adult Services for the 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 Moore joined LACCOA in July 2016.



Michael Neely

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



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## MEET THE COMMISSIONERS

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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, the American Cancer Association, and the Wellness Community Board. In support of her husband, she enjoys advocating on behalf of Veteran issues. Commissioner Okamoto joined LACCOA in July 2015.



Teresa Palacios

Commissioner Teresa Palacios is the previous Executive Director of the Eastmont Community Center in East Los Angeles with over 26 years of managerial and leadership experience. Through commitment and dedication, she transformed an under-performing non-profit organization into a thriving entity that brings change to more than 10,000 community members annually. She was awarded “Woman of the Year” recognition by U.S. Congressman Jimmy Gomez and Congresswoman Grace Napolitano and “Executive of the Year” by the SPA7 Community Partnership. Commissioner Palacios was appointed to LACCOA in December 2019.



Kiera L. Pollock

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



Ernie Powell

Commissioner Ernie Powell was a consultant with Social Security Works for the last six years and the principal founder of the Coalition of Mobile In-Home Testing and Vaccinations. From 1993 to 2012, he was the advocacy representative and then advocacy manager with AARP California and a published author in both Huffington Post and Zocalo Public Square on public policy issues. He was a Trainer in Direct Action Organizing and co-founder of the CA Institute for Organizing and Policy. Commissioner Powell joined LACCOA in June 2021

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## MEET THE COMMISSIONERS

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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, and 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 Reyes joined LACCOA in April 2017.



Helen Romero Shaw

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



Fran Sereseres

Commissioner Fran Sereseres is a retired business owner and is now an advocate for older adults and the disabled. She frequently attends and speaks at the City Council and other public meetings. She also serves as a commissioner for the homeless and has been acknowledged as the Antelope Valley Senior of the year and Woman of Antelope Valley. She served on other various advocacy groups in the Antelope Valley. Commissioner Sereseres was appointed to LACCOA in June 2020.



Ted Smith

Commissioner Ted Smith is a retired firefighter for one of the most populous cities in the nation. He returned to the Fire Department as an EMT-vaccinator for COVID-19. He is a retired Imaging Application Administrator from a large Healthcare Radiology Imaging Group for the Western U.S., Maryland, and Washington D.C. He actively served in the U.S. Navy. He served as Foreperson in the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury (2017-2018). He served as Commissioner in the EEC 2018. He is actively serving in the COVID-19 Pfizer BioNTech Vaccine research (2019-2022). He has a BA Degree in Radiation Health/Safety and Fire Prevention and Public Safety. Commissioner Smith was appointed to LACCOA in 2020.

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## MEET THE COMMISSIONERS

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Joshua Sneed

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



Lavada Theus

Commissioner Lavada Theus is a native of Los Angeles and has lived a life dedicated to making this world a better place and pursued a childhood dream of becoming a teacher. She earned a master's degree in Educational Administration and in Clinical Psychology MFT. She served 40 years as an educator with the Los Angeles Unified School District, retiring as an administrator in 2006. She served as co-chair of the 2nd District Senior Services Committee for the Empowerment Congress for eight years. She is currently a Senior Assembly member in District 54 with the California Senior Legislature. Mother, grandmother, great grandmother; Living Life Like It's Golden. Commissioner Theus joined LACCOA in 2010 and was reappointed 2014, 2017, 2020.



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 Torres joined LACCOA in March 2015.



Sandra Tung

Commissioner Sandra Tung is a social activist and has served the community for 40 years and has made unremitting efforts to improve the social status of minority people. She loves political activities and works for former Secretary of State of California, March Fong Eu. She is also a promoter of culture, art, journalism, film, television, and media. She is the CEO of the American Chinese Exchange Association. Commissioner Tung joined LACCOA in June 2018.

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## MEET THE COMMISSIONERS

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**Maria Wiest**

Commissioner Maria Wiest has established herself as an executive leader with the right mix of servant leadership, enthusiasm, emotional intelligence, and innovative thinking. A recognized leader with over 20 years of experience in spanning multiple disciplines – Information Technology, Operations, Human Resources, Finance, Sales, Marketing, and Executive Management. She is best known for crafting strategies to meet organizational goals, holds extensive experience in the Not for Profit, Service and Oil Sectors. Commissioner Wiest joined LACCOA in August 2017.



**Sylvia G. Youngblood**

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



**Louis Dominguez**

Commissioner Dominguez was appointed to LACCOA September 2019.



**Eloise Evans**

Commissioner Evans was elected to LACCOA in October 2019



**Aida Morales**

Commissioner Morales was elected to LACCOA in January 2020.

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## LACCOA COMMITTEES IN ACTION

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### **Area Plan Committee**

The **Area Plan Committee** worked with the Aging & Disabilities Department (AD) to advise on the 2021-2022 Area Plan Update. Due to the pandemic, the Public Hearing was held virtually. The Area Plan Committee assisted in recruiting participants from various areas of Los Angeles County that normally would not be able to attend a Public Hearing in person.

Committee Members: Dallian Carter, Yolanda Gorman, Raymond Hall, Lavada Theus (Chair), and Sylvia Youngblood

### **Communications and Outreach Committee**

The **Communications and Outreach Committee** assisted in developing the Annual Report and LACCOA's Commissioners webpage.

Committee Members: Louis Dominguez, Kyo R. Paul Jhin, Kimberly Lewis, Joshua Sneed, and Ted Smith (Chair)

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

The **Health, Nutrition, and Long-Term Care Committee** presented a program titled *Renewing and Restoring in the Time of COVID*. It addressed the ways we can help ourselves and others to restore and maintain our mental, emotional, and physical health during this time.

The two keynote speakers were: Dr. Haydeh Fakhrabadi, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and the Older Adults System of Care Administration; and Maureen Feldman, Director of the Social Isolation Impact Project for The Motion Picture Television Fund and founder of the Los Angeles Social Isolation Impact Coalition.

Committee Members: Robert Boller, John Kotick, Barbara Meltzer (Chair), Sheila Moore, Arlene Okamoto, Joshua Sneed, and Elvia Torres.

### **Issues and Education Committee**

The **Issues and Education Committee** arranged a presentation for the month of June 2022, about family caregivers. It addressed the great increase in the number of family caregivers, the impact on families, what policy is needed, and actions that can be taken by LACCOA. Several educational items were forwarded to the Communications Committee for possible inclusion in the e-LINK.

Committee Members: Robert Boller, Kyo R. Paul Jhin, Barbara Meltzer (Chair), Sheila Moore, Michael Neely, and Teresa Palacios

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## LACCOA COMMITTEES IN ACTION

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### **Housing and Transportation Committee**

The **Housing and Transportation Committee** continued to track local, state, and federal legislation on additional housing vouchers and reviewed the data on the annual homeless count. Our committee has actively tracked the local and state eviction moratoriums during this pandemic as we knew older adults would be disproportionately affected because many are retired and living primarily from Social Security income.

Committee Members: Louis Dominguez, Kimberly Lewis, Peter Mezza, Michael Neely (Chair), Kiera Pollock, and Fran Sereseres

### **Legislative and Advocacy Committee**

The **Legislative and Advocacy Committee** during the program year focused on key issues related to the on-going pandemic crisis as it related to how homebound residents are tested and vaccinated. A joint Ad Hoc Committee of representatives from LACCOA and the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities are reviewing the service needs of the county, related to homebound and disabled residents.

Detailed study and review by the committee focused on the existing legal process for surrogates addressing medical decisions for ill patients. After the review, the committee drafted a recommendation letter for LACCOA to submit to the Board of Supervisors supporting AB 2338 (Gibson) which would establish a defined surrogate process for effected residents of California.

Additional research was completed during the year to learn more of skilled nursing facilities government oversight regulation issues, as noted earlier by the Los Angeles County Oversight presenter Max Huntsman. Pending Legislation, AB 1502 (Muratsuchi) is moving forward in the Legislature to address these regulation issues.

Another issue of interest this year was directed to TeleMed medical appointments and how they have impacted overall medical service to the older adult population. Pandemic restrictions shifted many medical appointments to the TeleMed format.

Committee members: Jerry Gaines (Chair), John Kotick, Aida Morales, Helen Romero Shaw, Ernie Powell, and Lavada Theus.

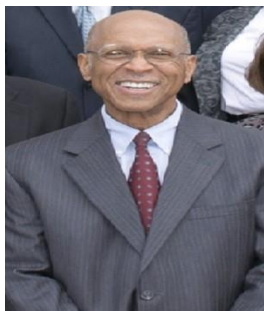
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## COMMISSIONERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

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President Kim Bowman presented awards at the end of the fiscal year in recognition of the work that two Commissioners did during the year. These Commissioners spent their time in LACCOA working to improve the community further, not just in their own neighborhoods or city or the particular part of the county that they happen to live in, but the work they do for the entirety of the county, and that is an important thing. We take time each year and we recognize Commissioners for the work that they do in LACCOA. This is a great opportunity to bring awareness to the public what LACCOA already knows, that these two recipients, Commissioner Theodore Smith (Distinguished Service Award) and Commissioner Michael Neely (LINK Award) work hard to advocate the well-being of all older adults in Los Angeles County.

Congratulations Gentlemen on receiving your respective award.



**Theodore Smith**

The Distinguished Service award as it sounds as a recognition of your hard work in the Pasadena community.



**Michael Neely**

The LINK is being awarded to Commissioner Michael Neely who has been involved in about everything you can do. He has held an office, has been a committee chair, and was on key Commissions to make sure to remind us of when we are missing things, and that our i's are dotted, and our t's are crossed.



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## 57TH ANNUAL OLDER AMERICANS VIRTUAL RECOGNITION DAY

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**OLDER  
AMERICANS  
MONTH**



**AGE MY WAY: MAY 2022**

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 2022 was "Age My Way." 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. LACCOA, the Board of Supervisors, and WDACS hosted the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Older Americans Virtual Recognition Day (OARD) event on May 26, 2022. The annual event honored 43 older adults for their volunteer efforts and positive impact in the cities and communities they live in.



Laura Arechiga  
District 1



Sherry DiGregorio  
District 1



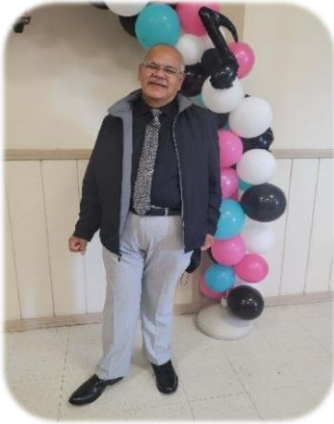
Gloria Evans  
District 1



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57<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION DAY

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Ricardo Guzman  
District 1



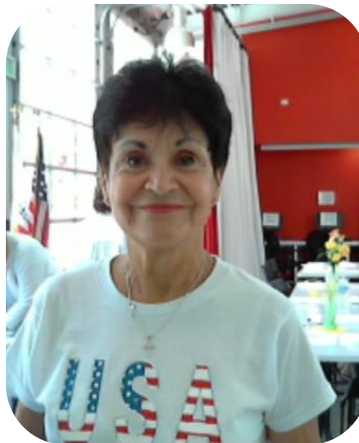
Jorge Hernandez  
District 1



Susan Janer  
District 1



Florence Lin  
District 1



Lupe Martinez  
District 1



Maria Mata  
District 1

Age my way!



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57<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION DAY

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Thu Hoa Thi Nguyen  
District 1



Stephanie Vendig  
District 1



Linda Barentine  
District 2



Doretha Blaylock  
District 2



Takashi "Kacey" Ebara  
District 2



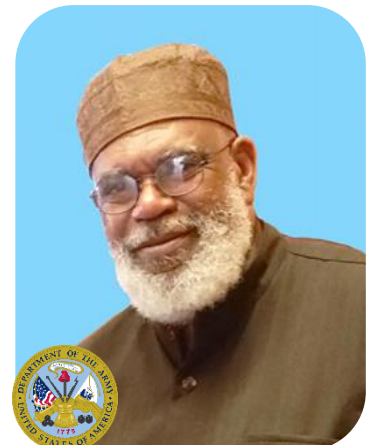
Dr. Janet Hoult  
District 2



Alexander Prentiss  
District 2



Ernesto Alvarado  
District 3



Rev. Zedar E. Broadous  
District 3

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57<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION DAY

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Lorraine "Lorry" Reeves  
District 3



Leonor Cuellar  
District 4



Julie Duran  
District 4



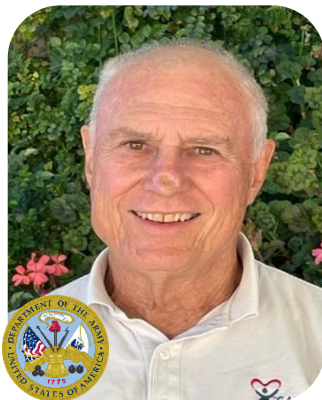
Robert "Bob" Long  
District 4



Rose Martin  
District 4



Teresa Nava  
District 4



Bob Perkins  
District 4



Vilma Rodriguez  
District 4



Annette "Toni" Rogers  
District 4

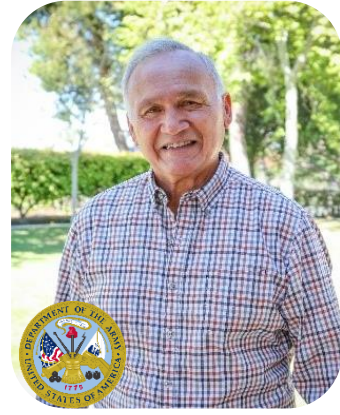
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57<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION DAY

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Fern Ruiz  
District 4



Larry Torres  
District 4



Older Adults of El Segundo  
District 4

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57<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION DAY

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Jackie Cortes  
District 5



Roger Flores  
District 5



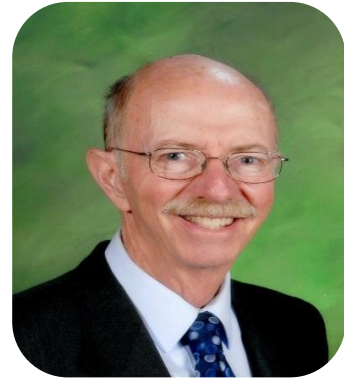
Barbara Gholar  
District 5



Dennis Greenwell  
District 5



Mary Hanna  
District 5



Bob Hazard  
District 5



Lorry Izor  
District 5



Joel Mesa  
District 5



Mick Mistretta  
District 5

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57<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION DAY

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Donna Morel  
District 5



Karen Olowiany  
District 5



Barbara Tugeley  
District 5



Ed Wolfe  
District 5

Age my way!

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH 

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## INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS FOR FY 2022-2023

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On April 4, 2022, LACCOA's General Board members held elections for the 2022-2023 Executive Board officers. On June 6, 2022, Deputy Caroline Torosis from Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell's office, Second District swore in the incoming officers. The 2022-2023 Executive Board will serve from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

### 2022 -2023 LACCOA Executive Board Members



Helen Romero Shaw  
President



Kiera Pollock  
Vice President



Cathy McClure  
Secretary/Treasure

### Committee Chair's



Jerry Gaines



Barbara Meltzer



Fran Sereseres



Theodore Smith

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## CREDITS

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Board of Supervisors.....	Hilda L. Solis, First District Holly J. Mitchell, Second District Sheila Kuehl, Third District Janice Hahn, Fourth District Kathryn Barger, Fifth District
Aging & Disabilities Department.....	Dr. Laura Trejo, Director Michael Kapp, Director of Public Affairs
Editors/Layout/Design.....	Lorenza C. Sánchez, Chief Deputy, Anna Avdalyan, Assistant Director Solomon Shibeshi, Human Services Administrator II Guillermo Medina, Human Services Administrator I Johnson Wang, Executive Assistant Barbara Thomas, Senior Secretary III Monique Norman, Staff Assistant II Sofia Moreno, Staff Assistant I Anna Musaderyan, Secretary II



Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults  
510 S. Vermont Avenue, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90020  
213.351.5274

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