



Board of Supervisors
Hilda L. Solis, 1st District
Mark Ridley-Thomas, 2nd District
Sheila Kuehl, 3rd District
Janice Hahn, 4th District
Kathryn Barger, 5th District

2021-2022 COMMISSIONER BIOGRAPHIES

LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR OLDER ADULTS



wdacs
workforce development
aging & community services





Kim Bowman

President

District 5 | 2018-2021

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



Gene Dorio

1st Vice President

District 5 | 2018-2021

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



Kiera Pollock

2nd

Vice President

District 3 | 2018-2021

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



Cathy McClure

Secretary

District 4 | 2016-2021

Commissioner McClure is a professional fundraising Consultant. Cathy is serving her fifth year on LACCOA. She serves as Secretary on the Executive Board. Cathy worked for Woodcraft Rangers and the Discovery Cube Los Angeles as Development Director. For over 20 years Cathy 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 women chairperson. She also 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.



Kristine Choulakian Fiscal Officer

District | 2018-2021

Commissioner Kristine Choulakian is a gerontologist from the University of Southern California with 20 years of experience in the healthcare and homecare industry. She enjoys the opportunity to dedicate her public service to individuals with disabilities and elderly people through the Personal Assistance Services Council (PASC) of Los Angeles County. PASC is the largest public authority in California for In-Home Supportive Services exclusively serving Los Angeles County. She joined LACCOA in November 2018.



Robert Boller

District 3 | 2016-2021

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.



Dallian Carter

District | 2021

Dallian Carter is a graduate of University of La Verne where she earned her Masters of Science, Gerontology with a concentration in Geriatric Care Management. Dallian has 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



Louis Dominguez

District 4 | 2021

Commissioner Dominguez was appointed to LACCOA September 2019.



Eloise Evans

District 2 | 2021

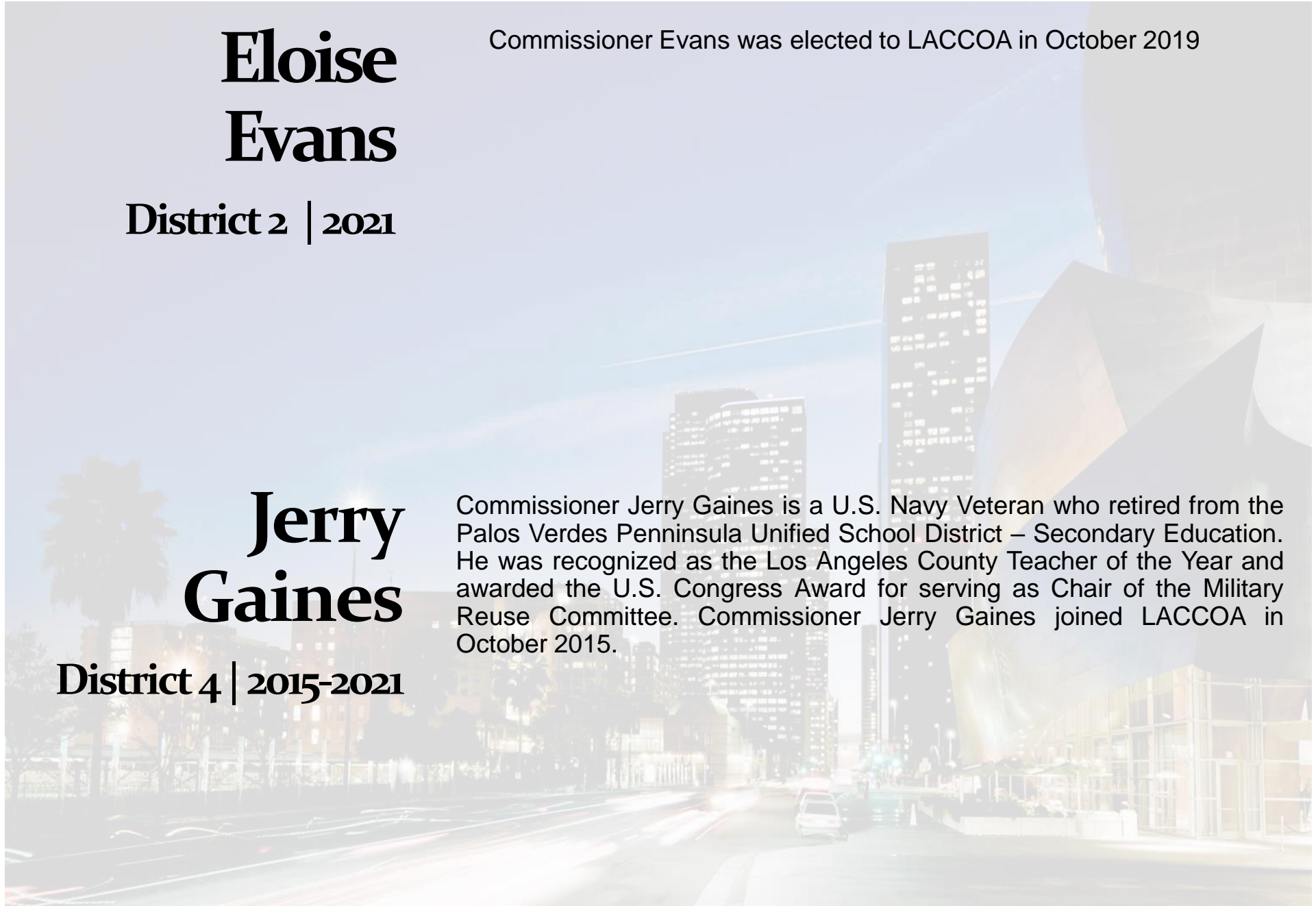
Commissioner Evans was elected to LACCOA in October 2019



Jerry Gaines

District 4 | 2015-2021

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.





Raymond Hall

District 4 | 2016-2021

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.



Kyo Paul Jhin

District 3 | 2020-2021

Commissioner Paul Jhin retired from the U.S. Peace Corps in 2009, where he served as Director for the Office of Planning, Policy, and Analysis. He spends time volunteering with the California Postsecondary Education Commission and the Los Angeles County Citizen's Economic and Efficiency Commission in 2015, he was the recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. He joined LACCOA in July 2020.



John Kotick

District 1 | 2018-2021

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



Kimberly Lewis

District 3 | 2020-2021

Kimberly Lewis started advocating for the homeless and senior populations at the age of 15. Kimberly directed a women’s shelter in South LA and worked for LAHSA, and other service providers. Kimberly is a member of the FBI’s Faith Base & Community Leaders Initiative, and alumni of two USC’s Civic Engagement programs. Currently, Kimberly 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 senior population. Commissioner Lewis joined LACCOA in 2020.



Barbara Meltzer

District 3 | 2007-2021

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



Sheila Moore

District 3 | 2016-2021

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.



Aida Morales

District 5 | 2020-2021

Commissioner Aida Morales has a B.A. from Cal State University. She worked as a Northwest Commissioner and for the Women Commission for the City of Pasadena. She was a former elected chairperson for the Bilingual Program in Pasadena School District, Parents Action in the City of Pasadena and also served as a statewide director for Vote of Registration for the State Assembly. Ms. Morales received an award from the California Association for Bilingual Education and Certification of Recognitions from both Congressmen Adam Schiff and Jack Scott. She has also worked for the Board of Directors of Pasadena Neighborhood Housing. Commissioner Morales was elected to LACCOA in January 2020.



Michael Neely

District 2 | 2017-2021

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



Arlene Okamoto

District 5 | 2015-2021

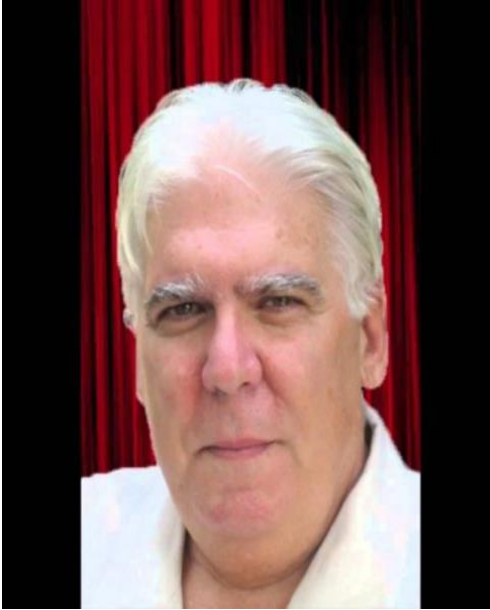
Commissioner Arlene Okamoto is a retired Senior Services Coordinator for Methodist Hospital of Southern California. She served on the Board of Directors for the Red Cross, American Cancer Association, and Wellness Community Board. In support of her husband, she enjoys advocating on behalf of Veteran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



Teresa Palacios

District 1 | 2020-2021

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. Teresa has been 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.



Ernie Powell

District 2 | 2021-2021

Ernie Powell is 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, Commissioner Powell was the advocacy representative and then advocacy manager with AARP California. He has published and authored in both Huffington Post and Zocalo Public Square on public policy issues. He is also a trainer in Direct Action Organizing and co-founder of the California Institute for Organizing and Policy. Commissioner Powell was appointed to LACCOA in June 2021.



Carmen Reyes

District 4 | 2015-2021

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.



Fran Sereseres

District 5 | 2020-2021

Commissioner Fran Sereseres is a retired business owner and is now an advocate for seniors and the disabled. Commissioner Sereseres frequently attends and speaks at City Council, Supervisor and Government Meetings. She also serves as a Commissioner for the Homeless. She also has been acknowledged as the Antelope Valley Senior of the year (2016-2017) and the Woman of the Antelope Valley (2019). Ms. Sereseres has served as AARP Secretary, on the Antelope Valley Transit Advisory Board, Senior Center Volunteer, Escort for Senior Day Trips, Lancaster On the Move Riders Program "Buddies" for Metro. Commissioner Sereseres has initiated to keep the Lancaster MetroLink Open and for the expansion and funding of \$ 1.5 million for Antelope Valley Senior Center for a better quality of life for all older adults! Commissioner Sereseres was appointed to LACCOA in June 2020.



Helen Romero Shaw

District 1 | 2015-2021

Commissioner Helen Romero Shaw currently works as Public Affairs Manager for SoCalGas, where her duties include participation in nonprofit, business and civic organizations. Ms. Shaw is President of the United Latinx Fund Board of Directors, Immediate past president of the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and is a board member of the Rosemead Chamber Board of Directors, as well as a board member of the East Los Angeles College Foundation Board of Directors. Helen has received several honors including: 2019 SoCalGas Phenomenal Woman honored at a YWCA luncheon; Breaking the Glass Ceiling by the Latina Golfers Association and Woman of Distinction Award by the Business Life Magazine. Ms. Shaw was appointed to LACCOA by Supervisor Hilda Solis in June 2015.



Ted Smith

District 5 | 2020-2021

Commissioner 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 US, Maryland, and Washington D.C. He actively served in the US Navy. He served as Foreperson in the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury. 2017-2018. He served as Commissioner in the EEC 2018 moving forward. Ted is actively serving in the Covid-19 Pfizer BioNTech Vaccine research (2019 – 2022). Ted has a BA Degree in Radiation Health/Safety and Fire Prevention and Public Safety. Commissioner Smith was appointed to LACCOA in 2020.



Joshua Sneed

District 4 | 2018-2021

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



Lavada Theus Taylor

District 2 | 2017-2021

Commissioner Theus is a native of Los Angeles and has lived a life dedicated to making this world a better place. Pursued childhood dream of becoming a teacher. Commissioner Theus earned a Masters Degree in Educational Administration and Masters in Clinical Psychology MFT. Served 40 years as an educator with Los Angeles Unified School District, retiring as an administrator in 2006. Served as co-chair of the 2nd district Senior Services Committee for the Empowerment Congress for 8 years. Currently Senior Assembly member, district 54 with the California Senior Legislature. Mother, grandmother, great grandmother; Living Life Like it's Golden. Joined 2010, reappointed 2014, 2017, 2020.



Elvia Torres

District 1 | 2016-2021

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.



Sandra Tung

District 1 | 2018-2021

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



Maria Wiest

District 4 | 2017-2021

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



Sylvia Youngblood

District 1 | 2017-2021

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

