

# 2012 Woman of the Year Honorees



## *Debra Broner*

(Assembly District 1 - Chesbro)

From caring for our seniors as a Board Member and President of the local Senior Center to working with school children and teachers, her work on environmental causes, and leadership roles with the Democratic Party, little gets done on the Northcoast without Debra Broner playing an important role.

## *Leslie Lohse*

(Assembly District 2 - Nielsen)

Leslie Lohse has served as Tribal Council Treasurer of the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians of California since 1998. Leslie currently serves on the California Native American Heritage Commission, California International Relations Foundation, and Tehama County Girls, Inc. Under the careful guidance of the Paskenta Tribal Council, the tribe has been able to secure a Small Business Administration 8A Corporation certification.



## *Laura Nicholson*

(Assembly District 3 - Logue)



Laura Nicholson started as an editor for the Appeal Democrat, where she launched a strong “shop local” campaign. As CEO of the Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce, she advocated for, over 700 businesses. A strong proponent of the “Save Beale” campaign, she helped protect Beale AFB from national base closures.

## *Robyn Raphael*

(Assembly District 4 - Gaines)

Robyn Raphael has been selected for her contributions to the community, impacting families, touching the lives of others, and making a difference locally and reaching out nationally to find a cure for childhood cancer. She founded the Keaton Raphael Memorial for Neuroblastoma in 1998, and has since helped raise \$3 million dollars for pediatric cancer research.



## *Angelique Ashby*

(Assembly District 5 - Pan)



Angelique Ashby is Vice Mayor of the City of Sacramento, and in her first term on the City Council. She is a tireless advocate for her community as well as a mom, business owner and graduate of McGeorge School of Law.

## *Dana King*

(Assembly District 6 - Huffman)

Dana is an Emmy winning Bay Area newscaster whose stories have highlighted injustices locally and around the globe. As chair of and chief advocate for MarinKids, her passion for bringing equal opportunities to all children rallies the community to act. She generously uses her considerable talents as an artist and reporter to support critical children and community causes.



## *Elizabeth Basile*

(Assembly District 7 - Allen)

Elizabeth Basile is one of the most storied public servants in the entire 7th assembly district; she has dedicated her life to the betterment of her community as a public school teacher, women's and union rights activist as well as long time member of the Sonoma County Democratic Party.

## *Debbie Reynolds*

(Assembly District 8 - Yamada)

Debbie Reynolds is administrator of Eskaton Wilson Manor, an affordable apartment community. She helped reunite a WWII veteran resident with his brother in Japan, they were separated for over 60 years. Reynolds also directed West Sacramento's first Veterans Day Parade - marking the first time that many local war veterans were publicly honored for their service.



## *Sheila Boxley*

(Assembly District 9 - Dickinson)



Sheila Boxley, CEO of the Child Abuse Prevention Center, is a statewide leader in child abuse prevention efforts, responsible for policy and system improvements; analyzing child death review data; leveraging federal funds for prevention services and education; and legislative advocacy – all to produce healthy and socially productive, children and families.

## *Ashley Gill*

(Assembly District 10 - Huber)

Ashley Gill oversees the “Trees for Troops” program at Green Acres Nursery, the business run by her family—including picking every tree. Gill, 29, came up with the idea in 2005, and has since given over 1,000 free Christmas trees for the families of active duty soldiers stationed overseas. Gill also serves on the Board of Directors for the California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers.



## *Alissa Friedman*

(Assembly District 11 - Bonilla)

Alissa Friedman has served as Executive Director of Opportunity Junction since 2003, developing it into a hub for training, education, and job placement. While in the Women's Policy Institute, she helped draft and pass 2004's Education Works! bill. She has also served on the Contra Costa County Commission for Women.

## *Rebecca Katz*

(Assembly District 12 - Ma)

Rebecca Katz, a licensed attorney, has devoted her life and career to public interest, social justice and advocacy for the most vulnerable communities. As the Director of Animal Care and Control for the City and County of

San Francisco, Ms. Katz has pioneered new policy initiatives and programs. Prior to taking the helm at SF/ACC, Ms. Katz was a Deputy City Attorney



## *Mary Magee*

(Assembly District 13 - Ammiano)

Mary Magee has been a registered nurse with the San Francisco Department of Public Health for the past 25 years. In 1987, while working at the HIV/AIDS inpatient ward at San Francisco General Hospital, she sustained a needlestick and later learned that she had acquired HIV. Together with fellow healthcare workers and her union, SEIU, she advocated for regulations and practices that would require the use of engineered safety devices in healthcare settings.

## *Arlyce Currie*

(Assembly District 14 - Skinner)

Arlyce Currie founded BANANAS, in 1973, a support and childcare referral agency for all things about children. Arlyce was plaintiff, in Doe v. Obleda, successfully increasing child care options; created the Child Care Law Center, advocated for a statewide background checks –TrustLine; established Housing Rights for Children, ending child discrimination.



## *Diane Burgis*

(Assembly District 15 - Buchanan)



Ms. Burgis has extensive ties in the local community with a background in nonprofit and volunteer management. She has worked as a volunteer with Literacy Plus, the Red Cross, the Coastal Commission, Youth Homes Incorporated, Boy Scouts, Tuberos Sclerosis Alliance, the Tuberos Sclerosis Foundation of Northern California, and

Meals on Wheels.

## *Regina G. Jackson*

(Assembly District 16 - Swanson)

As Executive Director for the East Oakland Youth Development Center, Regina Jackson transforms young people's lives by offering safe, nurturing environments and strategies for urban, multicultural youth to grow and thrive. Ms. Jackson's leadership is best described as a stabilizing force for the Center's curriculum and a positive anchor for the challenges of the 21st century.



## *DeeDee D'Adamo Moosekian*

(Assembly District 17 - Galgiani)



Ms. D'Adamo serves as Senior Policy Advisor to Congressman Dennis Cardoza and previously served as Legal Counsel to Congressman Gary Condit. She serves on the Valley Coalition for UC Merced's Medical School; the California Air Resources Board; and was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger as a board member on the Governor's Partnership for the San

Joaquin Valley.



## *Charmaine Banther*

(Assembly District 18 - Hayashi)

Charmaine Banther is a teacher at James Logan High School and has dedicated her career to creating learning opportunities and fighting for quality public education. She serves as the President of the New Haven Teachers Association and presides as Vice Chair of the California Teachers Associations' Pacific Asian American Caucus.



## *Mara Berns Langer*

(Assembly District 19 - Hill)

Mara is an example of how one passionate woman can make a difference in our community. Mara has twice survived breast cancer with optimism and a sense of activism, helping others to learn from her experience, and face their own health challenges from a position of strength.

## *Arminta King*

(Assembly District 20 - Wieckowski)

In 1998, Arminta King became Director of the Centerville Free Dining Room in Fremont. Twenty-four years later, it has blossomed into a large-scale, all-volunteer operation serving more than 1,000 meals a month to people in the Tri-Cities. The Free Dining Room is a leading organization in the community that strives to improve the quality of life for those it serves.



## *Alicia C. Aguirre*

(Assembly District 21 - Gordon)

Alicia Aguirre is the Mayor of Redwood City, and its first Latina mayor, having served on its city council since 2005. She is professor at Canada College, and has taught in the English Institute and the Spanish Department for 23 years. Alicia was a Fulbright Exchange Professor in Argentina.

## *Mei Huey Huang*

(Assembly District 22 - Fong)

Mei Huey Huang has worked to bring critical news and information to the Chinese-speaking community throughout her 27-year, award-winning journalism career. She is the first female Executive Editor-in-Chief in the 35-year history of the World Journal. An immigrant herself, Mei Huey is a mentor to APA journalism students and an inspiration to the APA community.



## *Cindy Chavez*

(Assembly District 23 - Campos)



Few public leaders can count the kind of successes that Chavez achieved early in her public service: groundbreaking health insurance for Santa Clara County's children, which served as a national model, unprecedented construction of diverse housing and a genuine city-schools partnership in downtown San Jose. Cindy has dedicated her life to increasing the quality of life of working families.

## *Malinda Markowitz*

(Assembly District 24 - Beall, Jr.)

Malinda Markowitz is a registered nurse and, as a member of the Council of Presidents of the California Nurses Association/National Nurses Organizing Committee, ranks among the most prominent nurse leaders in the United States. Markowitz was elected to the CNA/NNOC board and to the Council of Presidents. She has also been a national Vice President of National Nurses United.



## *Heather Anne Sherburn*

(Assembly District 25 - Olsen)



Heather Sherburn is the Principal of Orville Wright Elementary her leadership and vision brought about an API increase of 115 points in the last two academic years. Mrs. Sherburn is a true ambassador for education and success of the whole child academically and social-emotionally. She is held in the highest esteem by the community she serves.

## ***Toni Raymus***

(Assembly District 26 - Berryhill)

Toni Raymus, of Manteca, does much more for her community than simply building homes and developing business parks – she leads, inspires and motivates the community! Her passion, leadership and unconditional commitment to greater Manteca’s children, families and the arts is proof that one woman can make a difference in their community



## ***Rama K. Khalsa, Ph.D.***

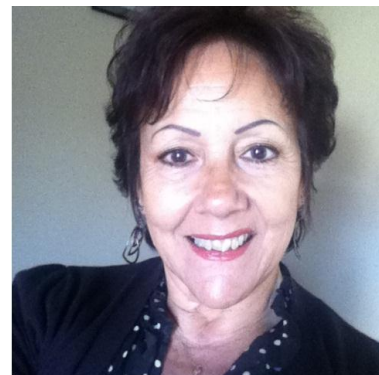
(Assembly District 27 - Monning)

Dr. Rama K. Khalsa, Ph.D., dedicated her professional career to improving healthcare delivery and increasing access to healthcare services in Santa Cruz County, especially for children. She served as the Director of Santa Cruz County's Health Services Agency for twenty-six years and is a true community leader.

## ***Anai-i Aranda***

(Assembly District 28 - Alejo)

Anai-i Aranda is a human resource professional and an outstanding teacher and mentor of traditional indigenous culture in Watsonville, California. She co-founded and co-directed White Hawk Indian Council for Children, dedicated to teaching the traditional indigenous cultural arts, songs, and dances to the Pajaro Valley youth.





## *Lorraine Louise Person*

(Assembly District 29 - Halderman)

Lorraine Person was a teacher, mentor, and friend to young students as a public school teacher for nearly 40 years. She helped coordinate services between law enforcement and seniors which formed the organization called TRIAD. She was awarded Citizen of the Year in three separate years by local law enforcement for her work with seniors.

## *Kathy Turner*

(Assembly District 30 - Valadao)

Kathy is the Food Services Director for Corcoran Unified School District where she oversees the nutritional needs of 3,400 students daily. Kathy served as president of the First Presbyterian Church Nursery School and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. She has spent many years working with the YMCA, the Corcoran Police Activities League and the Corcoran Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Task Force.





## *Community Water Center*

(Assembly District 31 - Perea)

The Community Water Center is a non-profit environmental justice organization run by three dedicated and strong women. Susana De Anda, Laurel Firestone and Maria Herrera help disadvantaged communities gain access to safe, clean and affordable drinking water. The CWC plays an integral role in the formation of water legislation benefitting the Central Valley.

## *Colleen McGauley*

(Assembly District 32 - Grove)

Colleen McGauley is the Executive Director of CASA Kern County. She was the first CASA volunteer to serve in Kern County juvenile court and has been with CASA since its inception. During her tenure, CASA has doubled the number of volunteers and the number of abused children served annually.



## *Ruth E. Jensen*

(Assembly District 33 - Achadjian)

Ruth Jensen exemplifies the best in character and spirit. She has dedicated her life to promoting the agriculture industry and has spent over 25 years in various capacities within the California Women for Agriculture, which is a statewide organization that promotes women in agriculture, the backbone of California's economy.

## ***Patricia Heiskell Hillman***

(Assembly District 34 - Conway)

Pat Hillman is a life-long Tulare resident. She is a pillar of the community, and currently serves on the Tulare County Board of Education. Four generations of her family have owned and operated J.D. Heiskell and Company, a 125 year old international commodity trading business.



## ***Victoria Riskin***

(Assembly District 35 - Williams)



world.

Dr. Victoria Riskin has worked to protect human rights globally and locally. As a founding member of Human Rights Watch in Southern California and a board member of the international organization, her work has helped lay the legal and moral groundwork for deep-rooted change to bring greater justice and security to people around the



## *Aida O'Connor*

(Assembly District 36 - Knight)

For more than 32 years, Aida O'Connor has owned and managed Hanford Home Loans in the Antelope Valley. She has served as president on the Antelope Valley Board of Trade, as well as being the founder and past president of the Edwards Air Force Base Civilian Military Support Group. Aida has raised 12 children and enjoys her 32 grandchildren.



## *Jacqui Irwin*

(Assembly District 37 - Gorell)



Jacqui Irwin is currently serving her second term as mayor of Thousand Oaks, where she has been a City Councilmember since 2004. Mayor Irwin's tireless involvement with community groups, non-profits, schools, and PTAs have made her a highly successful role model for women in Ventura County and throughout California.

## *Christine Ward*

(Assembly District 38 - Smyth)

Field Representative to Assembly Members Cameron Smyth and Keith Richman, Chris has helped countless Californians through many difficult situations. Chris has been recognized as Lakeside Healthcare's Volunteer of the Year and serves on the board at New Horizons. An avid Los Angeles Dodger's fan she will tell you that her greatest joy is her family.



## *Sylvia Fajardo*

(Assembly District 39 - Fuentes)

Sylvia Fajardo is the best of what California has to offer. She served our country honorably in the Marine Corps for 8 years, earning the rank of Sergeant. She continued to give back by becoming a teacher and currently serves as the Principal of Pacoima Charter School. Sylvia Fajardo, the 39th Assembly District Woman of the Year.



## *Joy Picus*

(Assembly District 40 - Blumenfield)

Los Angeles City Council Member Joy Picus represented the San Fernando Valley from 1977-1993. Picus continues her civic involvement as a board member of several nonprofits. Through her leadership, the Council adopted a comprehensive Child Care Policy and a pay equity agreement. As a national leader in eldercare, she was the prime mover behind an intergenerational day care center for seniors and toddlers.



## *Maricela P. Morales*

(Assembly District 41 - Brownley)



Maricela Morales is the youngest and first Latina elected to the Port Hueneme City Council in Ventura County. Raised by Mexican immigrants, she holds a BA in Human Biology from Stanford University and is completing an MA on social oppression, power and liberation. She oversees the Health Access and Equity, and Women See Justice projects at Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy.

## *Marian Dodge*

(Assembly District 42 - Feuer)

Marian Dodge is a founding director of the Friends of Griffith Park and President of the Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations. All of the communities in Los Angeles have benefitted from Marian's passion, vision, and vital efforts to protect green space in our crowded urban environment.



## *Helena David*

(Assembly District 43 - Gatto)

Helena David is a creative problem solver. She founded "Those Who Care," a nonprofit that addresses the shortage of health food at local homeless shelters by building a network of homeowners willing to donate the otherwise wasted fruit from their existing trees. She donated over 100,000 pieces in 2011 alone!



## *Barbara Bigby*

(Assembly District 44 - Portantino)

Barbara is an active member of the Altadena Branch NAACP and serves in many leadership roles throughout the community. Barbara has always tried to make a "positive difference." She believes that Education is the Civil Rights issue of the 21st Century and feels hopeful that, working together, we will "Make the Difference In Our Community."





## *Mary Cedillo*

(Assembly District 45 - Cedillo)

Mary Cedillo dreamed to keep her family united, own her own home and help her children and grandchildren succeed. She has succeeded in all her dreams. She taught her children values like, if you can help someone – you are always ahead of anyone else. As a family – we look after each other. And being of modest means is not an excuse – it's the best reason to work harder. Her greatest joy is to hear her children say to their friends and others "I will meet you at my Mom's" – to hear at 83 that they still want to come home even for a little while is the greatest joy she could ask for.

## *Captain Anita Ortega*

(Assembly District 46 – Speaker John A. Pérez)

Captain Anita Ortega is the Area Commanding Officer of the Hollenbeck Police Station for the Los Angeles Police Department -the largest division in the nation's third-largest city police force. Captain Ortega earned her BA at UCLA where she walked onto the women's basketball team. There she received All-American recognition, and won a National Championship. She has participated in the Police Olympics in basketball and racquetball and is in the UCLA and LAPD Hall of Fame.





## *Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker*

(Assembly District 47 - Mitchell)

Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker has been a professional in the public and private sectors for over 42 years. She is the founding president of Ward Economic Development Corporation and for 25 years has led a variety of developments. Mrs. Dupont-Walker's strong commitment to "faith centered and empowering" development has made her a prophetic voice locally and nationally.

## *Denise Hunter*

(Assembly District 48 - Davis)

Denise Hunter is the President and Chief Operating Officer of FAME Corporations, the non-profit arm of First A.M.E. Church of Los Angeles. She has been responsible for the development of FAME's Back-to-School Giveaway, FAME's Summer Youth Enrichment Program, first Lady Michelle Obama's let's Move LA initiative and FAME So-Fresh Produce Market.





## *Betty T. Tsang*

(Assembly District 49 - Eng)

Betty Tsang is a pioneer in bridging Asian cooking styles, sauces and seasonings into the mainstream of American cooking. As Vice President of Lee Kum Kee, Betty's expertise has been sought after by National Food Retailers. An avid volunteer, she devotes much of her time helping the immigrant Asian-American community.

## *Norma Lopez*

(Assembly District 50 - Lara)

Norma Lopez has dedicated her life to working families in the 50th Assembly District. She commits countless hours with unions and community groups to fight for social service, civil rights, human rights and the labor movement. Her skill in mobilizing and organizing the community make her an adept defender of the middle class deserving of the accolades.



## *LaVerne V. Knight*

(Assembly District 51 - Bradford)

Owner of LaVerne La Coiffure Beauty Salon Married to Alton Knight and the mother of two. President, Hollypark Homeowners Association Committe Member, Build the Rowley Park Gymnasium President, North Gardena Business Association Recipient, Trailblazer Award Member, Black History Committee Community Center

Wall of Fame recipient Board Member Truevine Baptist Church

## *Delores Zurita*

(Assembly District 52 - Hall, III)

Compton City Councilwoman Emeritus, Delores Zurita, is the 52nd District's 2012 Woman of the Year. Mrs. Zurita has resided in the City of Compton for over 63 years and served on the City Council for 8 years. She has a long and rich history of community service and advocating for children and programs to improve the quality of life for all citizens in the City of Compton.



## *Susan Dunlap*

(Assembly District 53 - Butler)



Sue Dunlap is the President and CEO of Planned Parenthood LA and Executive Director of the Planned Parenthood Advocacy Project LA. Sue has led LA based efforts to defeat three anti-choice ballot measures in CA, re-branded the agency through English & Spanish public Ed campaigns, and provided leadership to increase reimbursement rates for California's family planning providers, among many other successes.



## *Sandy Cajas*

(Assembly District 54 - Lowenthal)

Sandy Cajas, works to promote development and access to capital throughout the region. Mrs. Cajas brings over fifteen years of experience in the areas of economic development, marketing and advertising. She owns "Diversity Marketing Group," which creates multicultural programs, events, and fundraisers for ethnic communities.



## *Winifred K. Heiss*

(Assembly District 55 - Furutani)



Through her efforts to train over 1200 domestic violence staff, volunteers, counselors and law enforcement professionals from 140 agencies, Winnie Heiss has helped thousands of women and children escape the ravages of domestic violence. A former teacher, Winnie now spends her time raising money for scholarships and to support Lakewood libraries.

## ***Aparna Hande***

(Assembly District 56 - Mendoza)

Aparna Hande is a resident of Cerritos and current President of the Federation of Indo-American Associations of Southern California. Aparna was chosen due to her inspirational leadership and strong ties in the Indo-American community and her volunteer work and commitment to promoting health and wellness throughout our community.



## ***Maureen A. Hinds***

(Assembly District 57 - Hernández)



Maureen A. Hinds dedicates 300 days a year as a volunteer to the 57th Assembly District coordinating donations and meals for the less fortunate as Food Bank Director for Covina Assembly of God Church. A resident of West Covina since 1986, she offers hope through compassion and commitment to service.

## ***Ruth E. Gonzales***

(Assembly District 58 - Calderon)

Ruth E. Gonzales has been a School Board Member in the Valle Lindo School District for 16 years. She was named Teacher of the Year for Wescove Elementary School in 2001. Ruth earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree and Teaching Credential from Cal Poly Pomona.





## *Rebecca Otwell*

(Assembly District 59 - Donnelly)

Becky Otwell is a pillar in the High Desert Communities. She has spent countless hours serving as Vice President of the San Bernardino County Fair Board, and former director of the Hesperia Chamber of Commerce. On top of her tireless service, she is a three-time Realtor of the Year and was recently named among the Daily Press' Most Inspiring Women.

## *Beth Hojnacke*

(Assembly District 60 - Hagman)

Since 2008, Beth has been the President of the Rowland Heights Community Coordinating Council, an organization designed to keep the 55,000 unincorporated residents involved in their community. Meetings are attended by elected officials and the major stakeholders within Rowland Heights as the Council acts as the liaison to Los Angeles County. They are the “voice of the people”.





## ***Elnie Vannatim***

(Assembly District 61 - Torres)

Elnie Vannatim's leadership and passion for civic engagement, education, and the empowerment of youth has inspired many in the community. She currently serves in the Thai Association of Southern California, the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce, the First Tee of Los Angeles, and the League of Women Voters.

## ***Barbara A. McGee***

(Assembly District 62 - Carter)

Barbara A. McGee has held the position of City Clerk of Rialto since 1994. She attended Southern University Baton Rouge Louisiana and Azusa Pacific University. Ms. McGee is extremely active in her community including writing grants for the United States Census for the City of Rialto, promoting local symposiums and festivals, sponsoring youth in exchange programs and is involved in several local organizations.



## ***Patricia Nix***

(Assembly District 63 - Morrell)



Patricia—mother of 4, grandmother of 10, and great-grandmother of 6 (soon to be 7) has been married for 60 years. She has lived in California for 45 years; she has been a leader in the Women's Club, First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino, and Colton Joint Unified School Board.

## *Rose Mary Ortega*

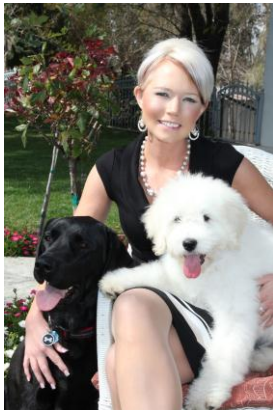
(Assembly District 64 - Nestande)

Rose Mary taught for 33 years at College of the Desert. As a board director of the Palm Desert Sister Cities Foundation, she has helped form bonds with cities in Mexico and New Zealand through citizen diplomacy. Palm Desert Sister Cities Foundation has received multiple awards of excellence by Sister Cities International, one being the Humanitarian Assistance Program that was initiated and led by Rose Mary.



## *Nicole Laffey*

(Assembly District 65 - Cook)



Nicole Laffey, a resident of Yucaipa, is the Executive Director of the Yucaipa Animal Placement Society (YAPS). YAPS is a non-profit, no-kill animal shelter that strives to prevent the euthanasia of dogs and cats in shelters throughout the Inland Empire by providing a temporary safe haven until a permanent home can be found.

## *Kimberly Ryan*

(Assembly District 66 - Jeffries)

Small business owner Kimberly Ryan has served as Girl Scout leader and Drill Team coach, and volunteers her time with HOPE (Help Our People of Elsinore), Elsinore Woman's Club, Lamb's Fellowship, and the Lake Elsinore and Wildomar Chambers of Commerce. Honored as a "Hero in Education" for her work with local schools, she now works to beautify Lake Elsinore's historic Main Street



## *Dianna Gadberry*

(Assembly District 67 - Silva)

Dianna Gadberry resides in Huntington Beach. She is the proud mother of her daughter, Angela. Dianna has volunteered throughout her life and currently holds the position as President for the Huntington Harbour Republican Women. She also serves as CRP Liaison for the California Republican Women Federation.



## *Becky Karns*

(Assembly District 68 - Mansoor)

As a resident of Newport Beach since 1975, Becky has been active in the community through her involvement with the Orange County Family Impact Council, Orange Coast Christian Outreach Week and as former President of Newport Harbor Republican Women and a current Parliamentarian on its Board of Directors.



## *Marisol Rivera*

(Assembly District 69 - Solorio)



Marisol Rivera is Vice President of SEIU Orange County and is dedicated to improving the lives of low-wage workers to earn livable wages, health care and an education. She's proud to empower women who face challenges working through poverty and immigration issues to achieve success for themselves and the greater community.

## *Melinda "Mindy" Stearns*

(Assembly District 70 - Wagner)

Mindy Stearns has had a successful career covering the world of entertainment. The busy mother of 6 now donates her time and talent for philanthropic work in Orange County, raising millions of dollars for dozens of organizations that provide quality care and educational opportunities for our nation's youth and veterans.



## *Mary Ybarra*

(Assembly District 71 - Miller)

Mary Ybarra has been a passionate volunteer and child advocate. Her dedication to her community and family, specifically her outstanding service to the children of Riverside County, reminds us all that there is an opportunity every day to help others and be the best versions of ourselves.

## *Dr. Sueling Chen*

(Assembly District 72 - Norby)

Dr. Sueling Chen has worked as a volunteer Principal at a local Chinese language school. Dr. Chen is also a local educator and entrepreneur. She is active in US-Taiwan exchange programs as well as committees on local Chambers of Commerce.







## ***Terry A. Rifkin***

(Assembly District 73 - Harkey)

Terry currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Dana Point 5th Marines Regiment Support group. Terry raises funds and creates opportunities so the community can demonstrate appreciation for the remarkable sacrifices our American Military families are making for our freedom.

## ***Susan Stames Hall***

(Assembly District 74 - Garrick)

Susan Stames Hall is founder and Executive Director of The Angel's Depot which has provided over 782,670 meals inside 37,270 boxes to feed needy senior citizens. Under Susan Hall's leadership, volunteers at Angels' Depot have successfully improved the quality of life for San Diego seniors by providing them nonperishable, nutritious food at no cost.



## ***Robin Kaufman***

(Assembly District 75 - Fletcher)

Assemblyman Nathan Fletcher is pleased to announce Robin Kaufman, a resident of Rancho Bernardo in San Diego, as his 2012 Woman of the Year. A resident of Rancho Bernardo since 1975, Robin has been largely instrumental in making her community a safe and vibrant place to live for her fellow citizens.

## *Nicole A. Clay*

(Assembly District 76 - Atkins)

Nikki Clay has played a leadership role in almost every important community and civic endeavor in San Diego. She is chair of the Convention Center Board, she was the president of the Holiday Bowl, and she is overseeing Balboa Park's centennial celebration. Nikki is truly one of San Diego's treasures.



## *Elaine Murphy*

(Assembly District 77 - Jones)

A 57-year resident of East County and Navy Veteran of both WWII and Korea, Elaine has worked with the National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Cowles Ranch Republican Women, Santee Mobile Home Action Committee and Santee Library and the Santee Historical Society. She worked on behalf of the Fanita Ranch project, Santee School Bond and the Grossmont Hospital/ER Bond Proposition.

## *Rana Sampson*

(Assembly District 78 - Block)

A national crime-reduction expert, Rana Sampson helped found the Center for Problem-Oriented Policing and serves as the vice-president of the San Diego Center for Children. Ms. Sampson helps children thrive whose trauma, abuse or mental health challenges stand in the way of their success, and is a strong supporter of community arts and volunteer efforts benefitting children.





## *Lorena Gonzalez*

(Assembly District 79 - Hueso)

The daughter of an immigrant farmworker and a nurse, Lorena Gonzalez learned the value of hard work and determination at an early age. In January of 2008, Lorena became the Secretary-Treasurer and CEO for the San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council, becoming the first woman and first person of color to serve as head of the Labor Council

## *Honorable Ruth Bermudez Montenegro*

(Assembly District 80 – V. Manuel Pérez)

Judge Ruth Bermudez Montenegro of El Centro has distinguished herself through her efforts to expand educational access and opportunity in the Imperial Valley. She is actively involved in a number of education and civic organizations which have raised thousands of dollars for student scholarships and grants that support school programs and activities.

