

Woman of the Year

2018



Monday, March 12, 2018



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Dear Woman of the Year honoree:

You have received a significant honor, one that speaks to your unique contributions to the lives of your fellow Californians. The rarity of this award is perhaps best illustrated by the fact that only 120 women are honored by the California State Legislature each year in a state of nearly 40 million people.

You are also now part of a special sorority that has slowly grown since 1987, the first year that the Legislative Women's Caucus set aside a day in March, during Women's History Month, to host this celebration.

It has become a meaningful tradition and an anticipated rite of spring. The Assembly and Senate pause from its usual business to bestow accolades to encourage women of all ages to pursue a life that benefits others.

Thank you for participating today and we are pleased to honor you before an audience of your elected representatives, peers, family and friends.

We hope that you will take personal satisfaction in the receipt of this award. We also hope that you will display it in a way that encourages other women to weave themselves into the daily fabric of our lives. You are, in our estimation, much of what is best about the Golden State.

On these pages are your peers, the women like you, who in their own communities are also making a difference. We who serve you here in the State Capitol are honored that you have joined us and that you have accepted our commendation.

Respectfully,

Susan Talamantes Eggman
Assemblywoman, 13th District

Connie M. Leyva, Vice Chair
Senator, 20th District

Ginne Mistal

Republican Leader Brian Dahle (AD 1)

An American and Californian by choice, Ginne Mistal arrived in Shasta County in 1981 and promptly made herself a vital member of the community. Through her decades of involvement in business, youth programs and local government, the thing that really stands out is her ability to bring people together.



Jenny Chamberlain

Assemblymember Jim Wood (AD 2)

Jenny Chamberlain is an inspiring leader in Sonoma County's Hispanic/Latino community. She is highly regarded as a champion for immigrant rights, civic engagement and promoting opportunities for

young Latina leaders. Jenny is the current President of Sonoma County's Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Secretary for the California Hispanic Chamber.

Rashell Brobst

Assemblymember James Gallagher (AD 3)

Rashell Brobst started as a volunteer when the Boys & Girls Clubs of the North Valley opened 22 years ago. Now as the CEO she is our children's greatest champion. She has never lost sight of the organization's mission and ensures every child has the chance to succeed.



Amagda Perez and Holly Cooper

Assemblywoman Cecilia M. Aguiar-Curry (AD 4)

Holly Cooper - Serving as co-director of the Immigration

Law Clinic at UC Davis, Holly Cooper has extensive litigation experience defending the rights of immigrants. She is a nationally recognized expert on immigration detention issues and on the immigration consequences of criminal convictions. Amagda Perez - Amagda Pérez brings a wealth of experience and expertise on immigration and poverty law to the UC Davis School of Law Immigration Law Clinic, where she serves as the co-director and supervises law students in preparation of deportation defense cases.

Laurie Forster

Assemblymember Frank Bigelow (AD 5)

Laurie Forster, a 5th generation resident of Amador County was an elementary school teacher in the Calaveras County Unified School District. Since 2007, she has been a member of the Amador County Fair Board and has been very active with the Junior Livestock and the Miss Amador Scholarship Pageant Committees. She is a past 4-H Club sheep project leader and enjoys helping the youth in Amador County. She lives in Lone, California with her husband Richard, and enjoys spending time with her two daughters, their husbands, and their 5 grandchildren; all living within five miles of her home!



Rosario Rodriguez

Assemblymember Kevin Kiley (AD 6)

Rosario Rodriguez is the owner of Sutter Street Taqueria, an icon of the Folsom restaurant scene and people's choice for Best Business of the Year. Rosario is also a Rotarian, Board Member of the Twin Lakes Food Bank, and a Board Member for the Folsom Chamber of Commerce.





Peggy Delgado Fava

Assemblymember Kevin McCarty (AD 7)

Peggy Fava works tirelessly to create a ‘bridge’ for high-risk youth in the Youth Detention Facility in Sacramento and is dedicated to uplifting marginalized

youth and connecting them with vital services and resources. Having been through the juvenile justice system herself, Peggy founded the Bridge Network to address the systemic failures that affect our communities.

Michele Brown Steeb

Assemblymember Ken Cooley (AD 8)

Michele Steeb is the Executive Director of Saint John’s Shelter for Real Change. Under Michele’s leadership Saint John’s has transformed from a shelter into a continuum of care that addresses the root causes of homelessness through education, supportive services and employment training. Michele launched two successful Employment Training Programs that provide the skills needed for formerly homeless women to gain and maintain employment.





Alice A. Huffman

Assemblymember Jim Cooper (AD 9)

Alice A. Huffman has won eight elections for California State NAACP president and serves on the National NAACP Board. She coordinates 54 branches including Sacramento. Civil rights are in her blood, tirelessly registering and getting African Americans out to vote. She loves politics, mentoring youth and grooming new political candidates.

Lucia Martel-Dow

Assemblymember Marc Levine (AD 10)

Lucia is the Director of Immigration Legal Services at

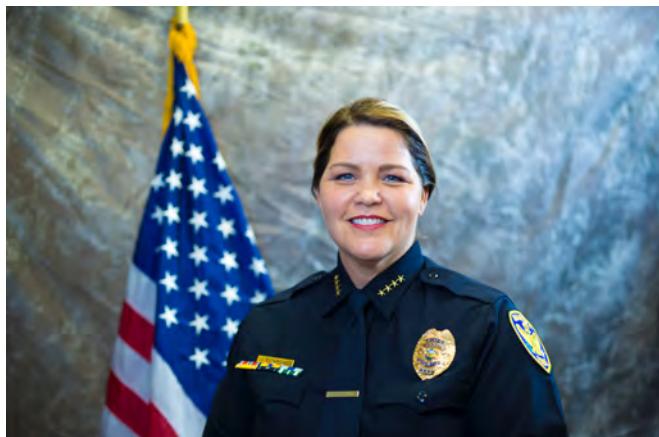


Canal Alliance in San Rafael. She has helped many families attain legal status, protected people from deportation, and educated the Marin community about the rights of immigrants. She has been a key player in Canal Alliance's efforts to mitigate the impacts of the national political environment in which we live in.

Lynn Gursky

Assemblymember Jim Frazier (AD 11)

Lynn Gursky has made a profound impact on her Brentwood community as an educator, an agribusinesswoman, and a member of numerous service organizations. She is also the proud mother of two sons and five grandchildren. Assemblymember Jim Frazier is proud to name Lynn Gursky as the 11th AD Woman of the Year.



Jodie Estarziau

Assemblymember Heath Flora (AD 12)

Manteca Police Chief Jodie Estarziau is the city's first female police chief, and the only female police chief in the 12th Assembly District. She lives in Ripon with her husband Jeremy and their two children.

Kathy Takahashi

**Assemblywoman Susan Talamantes Eggman
(AD 13)**

Kathy's passion for helping children has helped expand the Bulldog Project throughout her community in San Joaquin County. Created by her son, the Bulldog Project is an anti-bullying and anti-violence program designed to provide tools and awareness to students about the challenges of bullying, cyber-bullying, drugs, alcohol, gangs, sexual assault, and human trafficking.



Merl Craft

Assemblymember Tim Grayson (AD 14)

Merl Craft is a lifelong Pittsburg resident who has worked and volunteered with the community for more than 46 years. She lives her life by the motto, "There is no greater honor than to serve," and her contributions to Pittsburg and surrounding areas cannot be overstated.

Irma L. Anderson

Assemblymember Tony Thurmond (AD 15)

Irma L. Anderson has been a civic and community leader in Contra Costa County for decades. In 1992, she served as the first African American woman on the Richmond City Council and in 2001 she was elected the first female African American Mayor of a major city in California. Before entering politics, she was the first African American Director of Public Health Nursing in Contra Costa County.



Charlene Sigman, M.S.Ed, CCC-SLP

Assemblywoman Catharine B. Baker (AD 16)

Charlene Sigman, an early-childhood educator and speech-language pathologist, started the nonprofit School of Imagination and Happy Talkers. In 2015, her program became the region's only inclusion center based on the Early Start Denver Model, a Time Magazine Top 10 Medical Breakthrough for the treatment of autism.

Adama Iwu

Assemblymember David Chiu (AD 17)

Adama Iwu is currently the Senior Director of State and Local Government Relations for Visa and serves as the President of the Board for the We Said Enough Foundation. In December of 2017, Time Magazine recognized Adama as a Silence Breaker and featured her on the cover of their “Person of the Year” edition.



Honorable Malia Vella

Assemblymember Rob Bonta (AD 18)

Assemblymember Rob Bonta recognizes the Honorable Malia Vella, for her contributions empowering under served populations. Malia Vella serves as member of the Alameda City Council and holds the position of Vice Mayor. She diligently works to address the concerns and needs of Alameda, improving the quality of life for future generations.

Joan Graff

Assemblymember Philip Y. Ting (AD 19)

For 37 years, Joan Graff has served as President of Legal Aid at Work. Her career is dedicated to advancing the civil rights of working poor people – those toiling in the shadows to make the wheels of our economy turn. Ms. Graff is honored to receive this recognition at a time when courageous women are speaking out and women are rising.



Sheryl Boykins

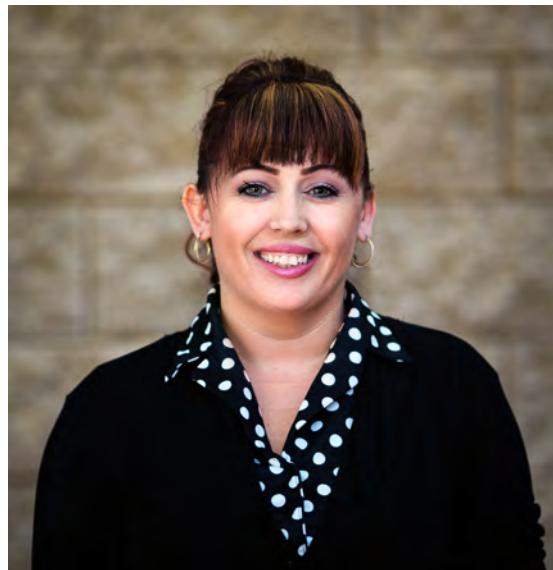
Assemblymember Bill Quirk (AD 20)

California State University East Bay Police Chief Sheryl Boykins, a former Hayward Police Department Commander, has a proven leadership record of promoting community policing by building partnerships and community trust in Hayward. Her motto is “I want people to see the department as ‘one of us’ not ‘one of them.’”

Lillian Roberts

Assemblymember Adam C. Gray (AD 21)

Lillian Roberts of Merced has been a local leader in the area of Education and Civil Rights for half a century or more. She was instrumental in accomplishing the desegregation of schools in Merced County, serving as the first African-American teacher at a school in North Merced. “Lillian has been a mentor to both myself and our community and it is my honor to recognize her today.”



Debra Rush

Assemblymember Jim Patterson (AD 23)

Debra Rush is the co-Founder and CEO of Breaking the Chains – a nonprofit that works with law-enforcement to rescue, restore and shelter female victims of human trafficking.

Debra is also a survivor of human trafficking. She's made it her mission to help others find the courage and strength to break free.

Luisa Buada

**Assemblymember Marc Berman
(AD 24)**

Luisa Buada is the longtime CEO of the Ravenswood Family Health Clinic in East Palo Alto. She opened her first community health clinic for migrant farm workers in 1980 in Salinas, and since then has dedicated her life to providing high-quality medical care to at-risk and underserved communities across California.



Sharon Yuhsiang Yang

**Assemblymember Kansen Chu
(AD 25)**

Sharon Yuhsiang Yang, Para-Educator for Santa Clara County

Special Education and Commissioner for Tzu Chi Foundation. Sharon's Message is: "Let us pray for peace in our land, Keep our hearts from sorrows and pain, Bless us all with joy and hope, Love and care for each one in the world."

Sharon Allison-Crook

Assemblymember Devon J. Mathis (AD 26)

Sharon Allison-Crook is currently the Director of Marketing and Programs at American Veterans (AMVETS) Department of California and a Notary Public. She was chosen as Woman of the Year due to her hard work and dedication to helping the citizens of Tulare County.



Teresa Castellanos

Assemblymember Ash Kalra (AD 27)

Teresa Castellanos has been influential in improving the quality of life of immigrant communities. She is a devoted mother, grandmother, and godmother, all the while serving her community through advocacy for the Santa Clara County Office of Immigrant Relations, and serving as an elected representative for San Jose Unified School District and MetroEd.

Celeste Walker

Assemblymember Evan Low (AD 28)

Celeste Walker is a small business owner, community organizer, cancer-survivor, wife, and mother. She serves the City of Campbell as a Parks & Recreation Commissioner, and she owns and operates Snake & Butterfly Chocolate Factory. Celeste co-founded Orchard City Indivisible, a nationwide grassroots movement to resist the Trump agenda.



Lois Varner

Assemblymember Mark Stone (AD 29)

Lois Varner, a retired public health nurse, volunteers as an informal case worker for elderly women facing homelessness. She founded the Fremont Street Mission for Elderly Women to help link this underserved and vulnerable group to housing, resources, and employment; matching

them with jobs and improving safety and well-being.

Lorri Koster

Assemblywoman Anna M. Caballero (AD 30)

Lorri Koster is the former Chairman and CEO of Mann Packing Company; a producer of fresh vegetables headquartered in California's Salinas Valley. She currently consults in the ag business sector. She is a graduate of California State University Chico and resides in Salinas with her husband and two boys, Jack and Sam.



Dorothy "Dottie" Smith

Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula (AD 31)



Dorothy "Dottie" Smith is a lifelong Fresno resident who attended local schools from kindergarten through college. A Graduate of California State University, Fresno, Dottie retired as a k-12 educator after 37 years. Dottie has served on local, state and national boards, task forces, and is a volunteer for many different community organizations. Her proudest accomplishment is having raised her twins to become successful adults who value education and the importance of public service.



Cherylee Wegman

Assemblymember Rudy Salas, Jr. (AD 32)

Cherylee Wegman in 2001 became the City of Wasco's first female Mayor, and has served on the City Council since 1998. She has proven herself to be a reliable, selfless, and diligent member of the community with continuous dedication to the people of Kern County and the San Joaquin Valley.

Lana Tomlin

Assemblymember Jay Obernolte (AD 33)

Deputy Chief Lana Tomlin has been a resident of the High Desert since 1989. She began her career with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department in 1990, and over 20 years later she now oversees the Desert Patrol Bureau. This patrol region encompasses over 19,000 square miles and is served by seven patrol stations. Lana has been married to her husband Gary for over 28 years and they have two children, a daughter and a son.



Lavonne Jarrow

Assemblymember Vince Fong (AD 34)

Lavonne Jarrow is the lead kitchen supervisor at the Mission in Kern County, a homeless facility in the 34th district. Since 2001, she has been in charge of making sure meals get prepared three times a day, 365 days a year and has either prepared or seen to the preparation of more than 2.3 million meals since she started working at the Mission.



Shirley Summers

Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham (AD 35)

Shirley Summers assisted San Luis Obispo County's mentally ill population for over two decades through her work with the Departments of Social Services and Corrections. She is also an active member of the American Association of University Women and volunteers on countywide commissions on aging and legal advocacy.

Karina Drees

Assemblyman Tom Lackey (AD 36)

Karina Drees is the CEO and General Manager of Mojave Air & Space Port. She oversees all testing operations at the airport and manages regional partnership development. Drees leads the implementation of strategic initiatives for the benefit of the companies operating in Mojave and has been working tirelessly to build up the region.



Tracy Lehr

Assemblywoman Monique Limón (AD 37)

Tracy Lehr is a reporter and anchor for KEYT in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. She was on the scene when the Thomas Fire broke out in Ventura County and again when Montecito was struck by the devastating floods. At a time when the media is under attack, Tracy is committed to ensuring her community is well-informed.

Judy Penman

Assemblymember Dante Acosta (AD 38)

Judy moved to Santa Clarita for 28 years and immediately became involved in a wide variety of community service activities in the valley. Local organizations ranging from A to Z (American Heart Association to Zonta) have benefited from her energy, enthusiasm, and passion for service. She has served in leadership roles for countless organizations around the Santa Clarita Valley, and beyond. Her many hours of service have translated into raising thousands of dollars for community organizations. She often says that she lives by the Helen Keller quote, “Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.”



Mayor Acquanetta Warren

Assemblyman Marc Steinorth (AD 40)



Acquanetta Warren was elected as Fontana's first female and first African American Mayor in December, 2010. Mayor Warren has focused her tenure on improving public safety, bringing business to the city, generating jobs, creating educational opportunities and advocating for a healthier community. In Mayor Warren's words, Fontana is always "Open for Business" and increasing jobs.



Marina Khubesrian, M.D.

Assemblymember Chris R. Holden (AD 41)

Dr. Khubesrian is a very accomplished physician of integrative medicine and a City Council member from South Pasadena. She is committed to integrating land use, public transportation, and municipal policy to protect public health and the environment. In

her practice of integrative medicine, she addresses environmental and genetic risk factors for the prevention and treatment of diseases.



Lynn Bogh Baldi

Assemblymember Chad Mayes (AD 42)

Lynn Bogh Baldi, a California resident for over 57 years, is a compassionate, active leader in the San Gorgonio Pass Region. Engaging with many organizations, she is an advocate for the developmentally disabled, supports Veterans and active military, and is a leader in promoting health services, education, business leadership, and philanthropy.

Janet Diel

Assemblywoman Laura Friedman (AD 43)

Janet has raised her five children and volunteered in the Burbank community for forty years. She has a district-wide reputation as a prolific and tireless volunteer, as an advocate for people with disabilities, and a leader in philanthropic and civic causes. Janet believes passionately that everyone should give back to their community.



Jill Lederer

Assemblywoman Jacqui Irwin (AD 44)

Jill Lederer is the President and CEO of the Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce serving the cities of Thousand Oaks, Westlake Village and Agoura Hills. The Greater Conejo Valley Chamber is one of the largest in the western United States and holds the elite 5-Star rating

from the U.S. Chamber.

Catherine Curry-Williams

Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian (AD 46)

Catherine Curry-Williams is a co-founder of Shane's Inspiration, a nonprofit that has transformed Los Angeles into our country's most playable city for children of ALL abilities. This mother turned the grief of losing her son Shane into a cause that this year will boast 70 universally-accessible playgrounds worldwide.



Diana Rodriguez

Assemblywoman Eloise Gómez Reyes (AD 47)

As president of San Bernardino Valley College, Diana Rodriguez oversees a diverse campus of 14,000 students in the heart of Southern California's Inland Empire. Diana is a

caring leader, with a track record of improving campus morale, increasing enrollment, advocating for innovation and professional development, and supports overall student success.



Juana Mata

Assemblywoman Blanca E. Rubio (AD 48)

Juana Mata immigrated to the U.S. at the age of 12 and currently lives in the City of La Puente. She works full-time as a social worker for the

Department of Children and Family Services where she provides support, counseling, resources and advocacy to children who have been abused.

Stella Li

Assemblymember Ed Chau (AD 49)

Stella Li is the Senior Vice President of BYD Company Limited and President of BYD Motors Inc. Stella oversees the day-to-day operations and long-term strategic planning for BYD's North American and Latin American operations. Under Stella's leadership BYD has achieved exponential market growth, becoming a global force in clean technology and consumer electronics.





Karen Stuart

Assemblymember Richard Bloom (AD 50)

For more than 25 years, Karen Stuart has shattered glass ceilings through her representation of artists in the entertainment industry and her efforts to help eliminate sexual harassment in the workplace. She currently serves as Executive Director of the Association of

Talent Agents where she leads over 140 talent agencies across the country.

Leticia Guevara

Assemblywoman Wendy Carrillo (AD 51)

Leticia Guevara is a resident of the El Sereno community in Los Angeles. She is an activist on behalf of men and women in construction through her 19 years at Laborers' Union Local 300. During a time when marginalized communities are being attacked, Leticia remains a staunch advocate of working-class people by leading various civic engagement activities throughout Assembly District 51.



María Alonso

Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez (AD 52)

María Alonso migrated to the U.S. from Mexico. As a mother and community organizer in Ontario, María has dedicated her life to bettering the health and well-being of others. She founded Huerta Del Valle, an urban farm that gives disadvantaged communities access to fresh fruits and vegetables. María is a testament to what it means to “place community first.”



Blair Besten

Assemblymember Miguel Santiago (AD 53)

Blair Besten has been the Executive Director of the Historic Core Business Improvement District in Downtown Los Angeles since 2011. Working around Skid Row has inspired Blair to become a passionate advocate for the chronically homeless and mentally ill while continuing to provide a safe community for residents, businesses, and visitors.

Wendy Doo

Assemblymember Phillip Chen (AD 55)

Wendy Doo is a legal entrepreneur who founded a boutique law firm that serves the welfare of small businesses and promotes compliance of labor laws. She is a force in fostering political awareness and is a liaison between law enforcement and the Asian community. She has led sexual harassment prevention seminars for over 20 years and is a pioneer of the #MeToo movement.



Lucy Moreno

Assemblywoman Eduardo Garcia (AD 56)

Lucy Moreno works for Clinicas de Salud del Pueblo as a Community Engagement Program Manager. She is dedicated to providing quality health care services to disadvantaged communities in our district and is well known for her leadership in organizing The Flying Doctors health and resource fair.



Chandra Howden

Majority Leader Ian C. Calderon (AD 57)

Chandra Howden is a United States Army Veteran and Executive Director of Servants Arms, a nonprofit organization, and a resident of the City of La Puente. She currently serves on the City's Education Commission, is the Industry Hills Rotary Club President-elect and the Interact High School Club Advisor.

Bobbie Jean Anderson

Assemblymember Reginald B. Jones-Sawyer, Sr. (AD 59)

Bobbie Jean has been a true asset and leader to the County of Los Angeles, with over 40 years of public service. During her 25 years with the Public Defender's office she led several successful pilot programs that worked on criminal justice and prison reform, as well as many other community advocacy issues.





Josie Gaytan

Assemblywoman Sabrina Cervantes (AD 60)

On behalf of the California State Assembly, I am proud to have chosen Josie Gaytan, as Women of the Year, for the 60th Assembly District. Josie has served her community in various positions, through her role as the Healthy Jurupa Valley Director and Boardmember on the Jurupa Area Recreation and Parks District. Her exceptional leadership qualities combined with her desire to serve her community is inspirational.

Esther Portillo-Gonzales

Assemblyman Jose Medina (AD 61)

Esther Portillo-Gonzales is a lifelong champion for social change fighting to improve the quality of life for families and communities. She believes this can be done by community organizing, coalition building, and advocacy. Esther resides in Riverside with her husband and two children.



Linda Lucks

Assemblywoman Autumn R. Burke (AD 62)

Linda Lucks is a lifetime Democrat who has lived in the Venice/Del Rey neighborhoods since 1970. Elected as a delegate for AD62 twice, Linda was previously elected president of the Venice Neighborhood Council for two terms. Currently, Linda works for Venice Community Housing, a nonprofit housing developer providing permanent, supportive housing to over 500 low income people.



Mary Ransom

Speaker Anthony Rendon (AD 63)

Mary Ransom can usually be found attending parent workshops and school board meetings. A single mother of four, grandmother of six, and great-grandmother of four, “Mama” is the President and Founder of the District African American Advisory Parent Council, which provides resources and support to African American students in Lynwood.

Ramona Pimentel



Assemblymember Mike A. Gipson (AD 64)

A 40 year resident of Carson, Ramona Pimentel is a proud mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and is celebrating her 40th wedding anniversary this year. She is a small business owner and is known as one of the major volunteers for the City of Carson. Ramona also currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Carson Planning Commission.

Jo-Anne Prophete Matsuba

Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva (AD 65)

Jo-Anne Matsuba, and her husband Howard, have lived in

Fullerton for the past 25 years and have two children. Jo-Anne has been a very active member of the community, supporting many local organizations including, National Charity League, St. Jude Hospital, Crittenton Services for Children & Families, Pathways of Hope and the Fullerton YMCA.





Amy Howorth

**Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi
(AD 66)**

Amy Howorth serves as mayor of Manhattan Beach. A former school board member and environmental activist, she's involved in many non-profit organizations including Habitat for Humanity, Friendship Circle, Amigos Unidos, and South Bay Cares.

Mayor Howorth was the original photo editor for Wired Magazine and is a lifelong Girl Scout.

Tamara Colosimo

**Assemblywoman Melissa A. Melendez
(AD 67)**

As bullets rained down from the Mandalay Bay Hotel in Las Vegas, Tami Colosimo found herself back in a familiar warzone, but far from the deserts of Iraq. With her military and medical experience, Tami was put to the ultimate test. She wrapped tourniquets, applied pressure to gunshot wounds, inserted IVs, and tended to the families of the deceased. As so many fled for safety, Tami stayed and saved countless lives.





Arianna Barrios

**Assemblyman Steven S. Choi, Ph.D.
(AD 68)**

Arianna Barrios is owner of Communications LAB in the city of Orange. She actively volunteers for the Latina Leadership Academy, Marian Bergeson Foundation, CWLA, California Women Lead and Small Business Development Centers. Barrios serves on

the Community Foundation of Orange and is a Trustee for the Rancho Santiago Community College District.

Maria Orozco Lopez

Assemblymember Tom Daly (AD 69)

Detective Corporal Maria Orozco Lopez grew up in the city of Santa Ana. An integral member of the Santa Ana Police Department, she was promoted in 2016 to the rank of Corporal where she serves as a Field Training Officer in Patrol and is currently assigned to the Special Crimes Section – Sexual Assault Unit.





Michele Grubbs

**Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell
(AD 70)**

Michele Grubbs is the Vice President of the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA). With offices in San Francisco, Long Beach and Seattle, PMSA is a west coast maritime trade association, representing ocean carriers and marine terminal operators on a variety of local, state and federal issues. Ms. Grubbs has been with PMSA since 2004. In addition to PMSA, Ms. Grubbs has also worked for the McDonnell Douglas and Boeing Company in Washington, DC and Long Beach.

Dana Stevens

Assemblyman Randy Voepel (AD 71)

Dana has dedicated her adult life to the service of community. She has spent 20+ years advocating for communities that put children and families first. Community Action Service and Advocacy (CASA) believes that poverty, social isolation, access to quality educational/employment opportunities are crucial to raising young people who contribute to society and embrace sobriety.



Jeanne Tumanjan

Assemblymember William P. Brough (AD 73)

Jeanne Tumanjan is a business owner, philanthropist, and volunteer. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Communications and Marketing from Pepperdine University. Jeanne supports organizations such as the Gary Sinise Foundation, Medal of Honor Foundation, Semper Fi Fund and serves as a board member for Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team.



Tina Anderson

Assemblymember Matthew Harper (AD 74)

Tina Anderson is currently the President of the 2/11 Marine Adoption Committee in Irvine and has served with the Committee since its inception in 2007. From babysitting at a very young age to working as a nanny for military families, Tina has a storied history of serving others.



Catalina Chacon

Assemblywoman Marie Waldron (AD 75)

Councilwoman Catalina Chacon has been elected by the Pechanga people to serve since 2006. Catalina was instrumental in the implementation of a new Tribal Identification that has been recognized by the federal government. Catalina has helped raise more than \$500,000 for Susan G. Komen Inland Empire. A guiding principle for Catalina is the importance of community and working together. A single mother of four, Catalina resides in Temecula.

Robbie Haas

Assemblymember Rocky J. Chávez (AD 76)

Robbie Calderon-Hass is Broker/owner of Hass Team Realty. Her dedication and passion is based on the belief that our youth is the future, has led her to helping many nonprofit organizations in many capacities. Robbie has raised funds for educational scholarships, local sports, children's theatre, funds for summer camp and provides one-on-one mentoring of young girls.



Cheryl Shaw

Assemblymember Brian Maienschein (AD 77)

A lifelong-San Diegan, Mrs. Shaw had a long and successful career in the escrow industry. She and her husband, Mike, have two children and five grandchildren, all of them in the San Diego area. Cheryl is an active community organizer, and played a pivotal role in helping her neighbors rebuild after the 2003 Cedar Fire and 2007 Witch Creek Fire. Currently serving as Chair of the Scripps Ranch Civic Association Neighborhood Watch, Cheryl keeps her neighborhood safe and well-connected. She is a well-respected community organizer, and many San Diegans are grateful for her service.



Diane Takvorian

Assemblymember Todd Gloria (AD 78)

Diane Takvorian has been fighting for environmental and social justice in San Diego since long before it was trendy. She founded the Environmental Health Coalition in 1980, and has been a constant champion for the empowerment of low-income residents seeking a healthy and sustainable quality of life for their neighborhoods.

Debra I. Maxie



**Assemblywoman Shirley N. Weber
(AD 79)**

Debra Maxie is a Chicago native and moved to San Diego in the late 1970s. Debra worked tirelessly as an educator for 44 years before retiring as Vice Principal in 2017. Debra enjoys spending time with her family and friends and currently serves on the California Student Aid Commission.

Alejandra Sotelo-Solis

**Assemblywoman Lorena S. Gonzalez
Fletcher (AD 80)**

Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher proudly recognizes National City Councilwoman Alejandra Sotelo-Solis as her 2018 Woman of the Year. For years, Councilwoman Sotelo-Solis has fought hard for immigrant families, local schools, small businesses, environmental and transportation justice, and more. She is an active mentor and role model for rising young Latinas.



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Born in Toronto and raised in the Canadian province of Saskatchewan, Virginia, "Ginne" Mistal moved to the United States and settled in Redding with her family in 1981. She launched a successful business but, more importantly, launched an energetic campaign of volunteerism and community service that has blessed the community in the decades since.

Working with Shasta County's youth, Ginne helped found Enterprise High School's Enterprise Starship, a nationally competitive show-pop choir whose reputation for excellence continues to this day. She helped launch the Parsons Junior High School jog-a-thon to raise money for school enrichment programs. She served as President of the Shasta High School PTSA. She served as co-director of the Shasta District Fair's Miss Shasta County program, which she modernized by establishing academic scholarships for winners while eliminating the swimsuit competition. Today, through Redding Republican Women Federated, she runs the Bucket of Books program, helping keep school libraries well stocked and up to date.

Beyond operating her dry-cleaning business, Bechelli Cleaners, which eventually grew to three locations, Ginne has been an active member of the Greater Redding Chamber of Commerce, serving on the board and the executive committee, and a long-time member of the Private Industry Council, promoting job training and readiness. She has been actively involved with industry trade associations and small-business groups throughout California.

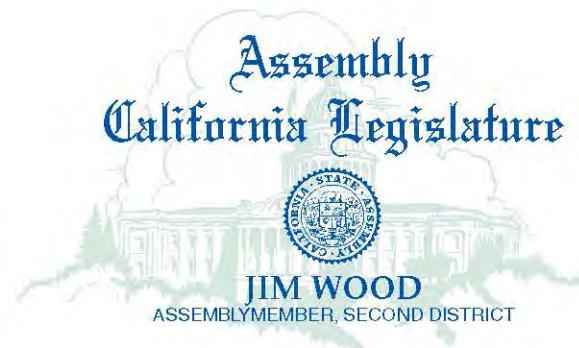
Ginne has also served her community through local government. She devoted two terms to the City of Redding Airport Commission – six of those eight years as chairwoman. She also volunteered her time to overseeing city budget development as part of the Citizen Budget Review Committee.

In ways large and small, Ginne Mistal has tirelessly worked for a better community for all, and has always brought people together to achieve that goal. She has earned our heartfelt thanks.

COMMITTEES
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BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS
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NATURAL RESOURCES
RULES

SELECT COMMITTEES

CHAIR: DIGITAL DIVIDE IN RURAL CALIFORNIA
CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND BUILDING A 21ST CENTURY WORKFORCE
WINE



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Jenny Chamberlain

Jenny Chamberlain is an inspiring leader in Sonoma County's Hispanic/Latino community, where she is highly regarded as a passionate champion for immigrant rights, civic engagement and promoting opportunities for the next generation of Latina leaders. In 2017, Jenny was elected President of Sonoma County's Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, an organization that now represents over 4,000 Hispanic/Latino-owned businesses. Under her leadership, the Hispanic Chamber endeavors to create a culturally diverse business community that encourages civic engagement and market opportunities for emerging businesses.

A native of the 2nd Assembly District and proud daughter of prune farmers, Jenny witnessed the economic transformation of the North Bay from a predominantly agriculture region to a multi-industrial, thriving economy. Seeing boundless potential in the next generation of business leaders, Jenny created the first Hispanic Chamber Young Professionals Network (HCYP) in the state. Under her guidance, this group of emerging leaders learns skills that help accelerate their careers and prepare them for the professional world.

In addition to her Chamber role in Sonoma County, Jenny is the Secretary of the Board of Directors for the California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce. In this position, she promotes business growth and entrepreneurial vitality for the 800,000 Hispanic businesses operating throughout California. She demonstrated her persuasive leadership abilities last year when she successfully lobbied to bring the Hispanic Chambers of Commerce's annual statewide convention to Sonoma County. Not only was it the first time the convention was held in the North Bay area, it was also the first time it had been held in a non-metropolitan area. As a result, over 3,000 entrepreneurs, small business advocates, corporate representatives, and government officials came to Sonoma County to promote the interests of Hispanic/Latino businesses.

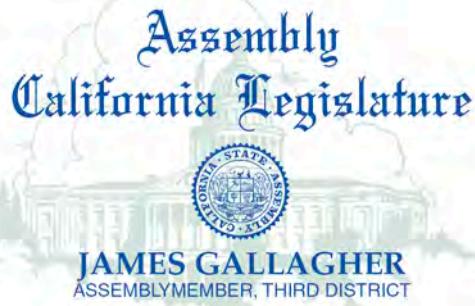
Jenny's role as a community leader is invaluable to the North Bay's public, private and nonprofit sectors. She is a member and past Vice President of Los Cien, a Sonoma County nonprofit with the largest Latino membership of any organization in the region. As an advisory member of this organization, Jenny contributes to Los Cien's vision of bridging the entire community, through education and collaboration, to have a clear informative understanding of the growing population of the Hispanic/Latino community. During the 2017 wildfires that devastated the North Bay, Jenny used her business contacts to assemble a team of 100 bilingual translators to assist the emergency response agencies and the Local Assistance Centers.

For the past four years, Jenny has played an instrumental role in organizing and coordinating the annual State of the Latino Community forum in Sonoma County. This event brings featured speakers and discussion on some of the most pressing issues of the day, including social disparities, immigration, education opportunities and health issues.

Jenny is District Director for Sonoma County Supervisor James Gore and a former Commissioner for the Human Right's Commission as well as a board member of North County Community Services.

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Rashell Brobst is the CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the North Valley in Butte and Glenn Counties and has been serving youth for over 28 years. Her philosophy is that she doesn't believe in giving up on kids. This philosophy has been her driving force since she started as a volunteer when the Boys & Girls Clubs of the North Valley opened 22 years ago and worked her way up to becoming the CEO. She has helped the Club grow from one site to an organization with 10 sites impacting 700 plus young people a day and over 2,000 youth a year.

She is the first in her family to graduate from college and received her bachelor degree in Recreation Administration with the option of Therapeutic Recreation from California State University, Chico and became a certified Recreation Therapist. Rashell lives in Chico with her husband and together they are raising their two wonderful sons. In addition to her work at the Boys & Girls Clubs of the North Valley, Rashell has been actively involved with Ability First Adaptive Sports Camp, Boys & Girls Club of America, California Parks & Recreation Society, California School Age Consortium, Community Action Volunteers in Education, Rotary International, Chico Non-Profit Executive Group, and the Bidwell Park, Caper Acres - Nico Project.

From being the local 2001 Big Sister of the Year to the 2016 Rotary International Paul Harris Award recipient, Rashell's involvement and awards with different organizations show that she is not only committed to the Boys & Girls Club, but committed to all community based organizations, all people in need and the overall well-being of our community, state and country. Most recently she was instrumental in helping to form Chico Holidays Together—a collaborative effort to shift the ways families, individuals and donors give during the holidays. Now in its second year the collaboration is very successful and serving more families and organizations in our area.

She is innovative, not afraid to take risks and approaches being CEO with an operations frame of mind which makes her extremely effective and efficient. She leads with passion, creativity and stays focused on our mission and vision. Rashell demonstrates the ability to lead diverse teams of professionals to successfully meet short term objectives while focusing on meeting the changing and growing needs of the organization and the young people and families the Club impacts. She has strong analytical and conceptual thinking skills that identify, analyze, and address critical challenges and issues. She creates and maintains a high performance culture that fosters positive youth development, quality programs, teamwork, and staff development.

Whether it's a Club, community, another organization, a specific child or family—if there is a need Rashell quickly leverages local officials and community leaders to gather and support the issue at hand. She wants to see our community and people succeed and be the best they can be. She is a champion for young people and a dedicated leader in our community.

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2018 Woman of the Year
Amagda Pérez & Holly Cooper

Amagda Perez - attended University of California, Davis and earned double majors in Spanish and Chicano Studies, with an emphasis on Law and Society. Continuing her education with the university, she was accepted to UC Davis' School of Law.

After law school, Amagda worked as a staff attorney for California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA). After two years with CRLA, Amagda seized an additional part-time opportunity with the Immigration Law Clinic where she was given the opportunity to return to her alma mater as a supervising attorney.

She continued to work at CRLA and the Immigration Law Clinic until 1996, when federal restrictions prohibited federally funded legal service organizations from representing undocumented immigrants. She then went to work for CRLA Foundation (CRLAF), which doesn't receive federal funding and is thus free of those restrictions. In 1997, she became Executive Director of CRLAF. Ten years later, she became the Director of the Immigration Law Clinic.

Holly Cooper - received her B.A. degree in Political Science from UC San Diego. She then attended the UC Davis School of Law.

After graduation, she worked as the Senior Staff Attorney for the Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project, and initiated the Detained Immigrant Children's Rights Project; providing representation and *pro se* assistance for adult detainees, and mentored *pro bono* attorneys. She joined the UC Davis School of Law faculty in 2006. In the Immigration Law Clinic, she focuses on advocating for the rights of detained immigrants throughout the University of California system.

She currently serves on the UC Haiti Initiative's Steering Committee and is on the Advisory Board for the Gifford Center for Population Studies. She also provides expert legal advice to public defenders.

I am truly proud to honor Amagda Perez and Holly Cooper as my Assembly District 4 Women of the Year.

CECILIA AGUIAR-CURRY
Assemblymember, 4th District

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Woman of the Year 2018

Laurie Forster

AD 5

Laurie (Mace) Forster is a California native, born in Riverside, California. She moved to Amador County at the age of six. She is a fifth generation resident of Amador County. Her family was in cattle and lumber in the early years in the Mace Meadows and Echo Valley areas of Amador County.

Laurie is a graduate of Sacramento State University with a B.S. in Psychology. She later went on to receive a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential and taught in the Calaveras Unified School District for 25 years, ending her teaching career in 2016 at Gold Strike Continuation High School.

Laurie is a former Community Club leader and Sheep Project leader for the Ione Community 4-H Club. She is still active as a County resource for the Sheep Project. Laurie raises lambs for local 4-H and FFA kids. She enjoys helping the youth in Amador County develop their leadership, financial literacy, and public speaking skills.

Laurie has served as a member of the 26th District Agricultural Association (Amador County Fair) board of directors since 2007. She is also President of the Jr. Livestock Committee. Laurie was former President of the Ione Picnic Association, and President of the Native Daughters of the Golden West, Chiapa Parlor.

Laurie married Richard M. Forster in 1982. They have two daughters, Lindsey (Rob) Ferguson and Tyler (Ryan) Wilkey. Laurie and Richard have five Grandchildren, Quinn Ferguson, Lauren Ferguson, Corra Ferguson, Graycen Wilkey and Rhett Wilkey. She lives in Ione, California with her husband Richard, and enjoys spending time with her two daughters, their husbands, and their five grandchildren; all living within five miles of her home.

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2018 Woman of the Year – Rosario Rodriguez

Rosario Rodriguez is a business owner, social entrepreneur, and active member of the Folsom community. She moved to the city a decade ago, a transplant from the Bay Area. She is a Rotarian for the Folsom Rotary Club, Board Member of the Twin Lakes Food Bank, and both a Board Member and Ambassador for the Folsom Chamber of Commerce.

Since arriving in Folsom, Rosario had dreamed of opening a San Francisco-inspired taqueria. She realized her ambition in April of 2016, leaving her job in the healthcare industry to found Sutter Street Taqueria. Working nonstop for 245 days, she soon turned her business into an icon of the Folsom restaurant scene. Her taqueria has been recognized as Emerging Business of the Year by the Folsom Chamber of Commerce, and Best Business of the Year, Best Late-Night Eats, and Best Taqueria by readers of the *Folsom Telegraph*.

The restaurant has also been featured in the *Folsom Telegraph* for its social entrepreneurship. Patrons are allowed to purchase “suspended lunches,” free meals that can be claimed by members of the community who are in need. “Sometimes I will see students come in. One will eat and three will not eat. I always wonder if they’re hungry and they’re not eating because they can’t afford to,” Rodriguez told *The Telegraph*. “Now, if they know we have a program to feed them, they can come in and eat.”

As of February 2018, over 60 suspended meals are available at Rosario’s restaurant. The service has been imitated by other Folsom eateries, becoming a model for local charity and community engagement.

Rosario is married to her husband Paul, and has been a resident of Folsom since 2008.

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PEGGY DELGADO FAVA BIOGRAPHY

Peggy Delgado Fava was born and raised in the South Oak Park neighborhood of Sacramento, California. She is the youngest of four siblings and is a first generation Mexican-American. She attended Sacramento High School and graduated from American River College in 1997 where she obtained an A.S. Pre-Nursing Degree, then later attended William Jessup University earning a B.S. Degree in Business Management and a minor in Theology in 2002. She is the first in her family to graduate from college.

Peggy is a survivor of early childhood trauma, sexual assault, and domestic violence. She has a heart for the underserved and at-risk youth and is an “alumni” of juvenile hall. Peggy overcame her tumultuous environment as a child through the help of youth programs, faith, and workforce development that opened her up to a new world beyond her circumstances. She enrolled in Health Ancillary Technician Services, an R.O.P. program which led her to a 25-year career in the healthcare industry. She held various positions such as OB/GYN Aide, SPD Surgical Tech, Materials Management and Procurement, Medical Device Sales and Operations, and in 2012 she became a Certified Health Coach under the Dr. Sears Wellness Institute. She is also Trauma-Informed CSECT Trainer.

Peggy’s personal recovery led her back to her roots of her childhood in Sacramento where she began volunteering as a Chaplain in the Juvenile Hall of Sacramento County. She desired to create a “bridge” for at-risk girls in the system who had similar stories to her own and later founded Bridge Network in 2011, a local nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide a safe place for at-risk youth and to connect them with resources and healthy relationships that offer and afford them to positively change their life situation. Bridge Network operates in the Avondale/Glen Elder neighborhood of Sacramento.

Peggy resides in Auburn, California with her husband David of 23 years. They are “empty nesters” and both of their kids are married and reside in San Diego and Chico. Peggy loves sports, hiking, biking and the great outdoors, nature, and their pets which are their “furry” kids.

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AND SOCIAL SECURITY
ALFRED E. ALQUIST SEISMIC
SAFETY COMMISSION

Michele Brown Steeb

In 2005, after touring the St. John's emergency shelter facility and learning of its potential closure due to financial hardship, Michele Steeb took the extraordinary step of quitting her job as Vice President of the California Chamber of Commerce to step up and help the struggling shelter program. Under Michele's leadership as Chief Executive Officer, Saint John's Program for Real Change transformed from a 30-day emergency shelter into a comprehensive, 18-month program that supports women and children experiencing homelessness as they actively address and overcome their circumstances.

The transitional program includes mental health services, educational assistance, and extensive hands-on employment training for up to 270 women and children daily. The program includes two successful components: the Social Enterprises program, which has launched three local businesses, and allows St. John's clients to get hands-on, real-world employment training. The second is the Diverse Funding program, which allowed Saint John's to expand from one government-sourced funding stream to include a diversified funding base, including multiple private donors and earned income sources.

Michele works diligently to address the broader issue of homelessness in the Sacramento region. Serving four years on the Policy Board to End Homelessness, and as a member of its Steering Committee, she led the efforts to launch Sacramento Steps Forward, a local organization addressing homelessness. She also chaired the Stepping Stone Task Force, providing a safe and structured transitional living environment to those experiencing homelessness. Additionally, Michele served as a member of the Power Inn Alliance Board of Directors for four years, and in 2012, was appointed by Governor Brown to serve on the Board of California's Prison Industry Authority.

Michele and her husband live in Gold River, California. They are parents to four grown sons and one young daughter, and have served as a host family for numerous students, both international and domestic. It is my honor to introduce Michele Steeb as the Woman of the Year for the 8th Assembly District.

Sincerely,


Ken Cooley
Assemblyman, 8th District

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RESPONSIBILITIES

Woman of the Year 2018: Alice A. Huffman

Alice A. Huffman is a grassroots leader at the local and national level, a manager, a consultant, a community bridge between government policy makers and the community. She was elected president of the California Hawaii National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1999 and has won eight consecutive elections. She is also a member of the National Board of the NAACP. She runs her own consulting firm founded in 1988, AC Public Affairs, Inc.

She is a past appointee of three democratic and republican governors. She currently assists the Governor in a volunteer capacity in his appointment of African Americans in state government and judiciary positions. She is a member of the Advisory Board for the American University of Antigua and a founding member and President of the Board of Directors of the Center for Democratic Participation.

Alice is a member of the California Democratic Party Executive Committee, and a member of the Democratic National Committee since 1988 and a Super Delegate to the national conventions. She also served as Chair of the 2008 National Convention in Boston.

Huffman served as a member of the former elected Attorney General's transition team; The State Parks and Recreation Commission; Member of the University of California President's Council on Campus Climate, Culture, & Inclusion; The Secretary of State's California Complete Count Committee for the 2010 Census; and Grand Marshall of the San Francisco's Gay Pride Parade.

Huffman, a high school dropout, was admitted to UC Berkeley as an EOP student from which she graduated in two and a half years with honors in Social and Cultural Anthropology. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Kappa Sorority. She did extensive graduate work in University of Pennsylvania, U.C. Davis in Anthropology and USC in Public Administration.

She has many national and state distinguished awards. The most recent received was the California Legislative Black Caucus Heritage and Legends Award; numerous awards for her community work on behalf of the African American, Latino and LBGTQ community as well as efforts to regulate cannabis.

Annually she has been included in the 100 most influential California by the Sacramento Observer, and the Capitol Weekly and twice the recipient of The National NAACP Thalheimer Award for the best state conference in the nation.

Huffman is a widower who devotes a significant amount of her time to the NAACP specializing in organizational development and leadership training.

JIM COOPER
Assemblymember 9th District

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CHAIR: CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE JEWISH CAUCUS



LUCIA MARTEL-DOW

Lucia is the Director of Immigration Legal Services at Canal Alliance in San Rafael. She has helped many families attain legal status, protected people from deportation, and educated the community about the rights of immigrants.

A native of Venezuela, she attended Universidad Central de Venezuela where she obtained her law degree. She had dreams of becoming a diplomat and began her career as a diplomat in the Venezuelan Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2002-2005. There she researched and drafted a Venezuelan Human Rights Report that was presented in the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights at the United Nations. She also served as a member of the Diplomatic Delegation to former UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland.

Lucia moved to Spain to work for the Ibero-American General Secretariat and it was through this job that she took a trip to San Francisco. She met her future husband there and decided to live in the Bay Area. Lucia went back to school and graduated from UC Hastings College of the Law in 2012 with a Master of Law degree in International Business and Trade.

Today, Lucia is a key player in Canal Alliance's efforts to mitigate the impacts of the national political environment in which we live in. In the past year, Lucia organized a number of events in Marin County including DACA and "Know Your Rights" workshops to help educators, students, and their families understand their rights when they face federal law enforcement.

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Lynn Gursky

Lynn Gursky was raised in Lafayette, the daughter of Ronald and Darlene Barron. She graduated from Del Valle High School in Walnut Creek and began her college career at the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1965. While there she met Roy Gursky of Brentwood, a California Polytechnic State University student and her future husband.

Following her marriage to Roy in 1968, she moved to his hometown where he worked at his family's cattle business. Lynn continued her studies at the University of California, Berkeley, graduating in 1969 with a B.A. in Art History. She then pursued post-baccalaureate education at the University of the Pacific, receiving a California Teaching Credential in 1969.

Lynn began her thirty-two year career in education as an eighth-grade teacher at Knightsen Elementary School. Her devotion to her students saw her excel in her field as she became first a mentor teacher and later the Director of Curriculum and Coordinator of the Beginning Teacher Program. Her accolades in education include her selection as the Knightsen School Teacher of the Year in 1987, 1989 and 1994, a Disney Teacher of the Year Candidate in 1994 and a Contra Costa Teacher of the Year Finalist in 1994.

Her family's deep roots in the City of Brentwood have shaped Lynn's life, and she will tell you that she and Roy always felt fortunate to call Brentwood home. Devoted to their hometown, they believed it was important to give back to the community that gave so much to them. They started their business at Gursky Ranch in 1980 and have been actively involved in promoting East Contra Costa County's agricultural heritage and business interests for more than thirty years. Serving nearly four decades as a member of the Brentwood Chamber of Commerce and Harvest Time Growers Association, as well as a supporter of the Harvest Festival of Brentwood, Brentwood Corn Fest and Brentwood Regional Community Chest, Lynn is presently a member of the Oakley Chamber of Commerce and a Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Ambassador.

For more than three decades, Lynn has also been an avid supporter of community, educational and social service programs, serving as an inaugural board member of the East Diablo Youth Soccer League, past officer of the Children's Home Society Velveteen Rabbit Chapter, and eleven-year committee member and past chair of the Relay for Life of Brentwood. Lynn is also a thirty-year member of Soroptimist International of the Delta, where for two decades she held leadership roles as a board member, officer and past President, enabling the organization to uphold its mission to serve the needs of women and young girls. Her philanthropic efforts are well known, as she and her family donate annually to numerous charities and fundraisers, including One Day at a Time, Shepherd's Gate and Pillars of Hope.

Lynn espouses the importance of mentorship as it enables one to help others who will then go on to do the same. A firm believer in life-long learning, an ideal she sought to impart to her students, Lynn embodied this principle when she began a second career managing the family business in 2009, following the death of her beloved husband, Roy. She currently owns and operates Gursky Ranch Country Store, a specialty and gourmet foods store, along with her son, Stephen, and her daughter-in-law, Sarah. Lynn also works as a part-time education consultant to the Knightsen Elementary School District.

For her community service and support of the local business community, Lynn was named the 2017 Grand Marshal of the Brentwood Holiday Parade and her business, Gursky Ranch, was honored as the Brentwood Chamber of Commerce 2013 Business of the Year.

Lynn is the proud mother of two sons, Nathan and Stephen, and five beautiful grandchildren, Matthew, Lauren, Sarah, Sophie and Evan. As her friends and family will tell you, Lynn is a special individual, determined, elegant, graceful and kind with a huge heart and great sense of humor.

I am honored to name Lynn Gursky as the 11th AD Woman of the Year.



Heath Flora

VICE CHAIR, ASSEMBLY LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWELFTH DISTRICT

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California Legislature

Manteca Police Chief Jodie Estarzau

Manteca Police Chief Jodie Estarzau is the city's first female police chief, and the only female police chief in the 12th Assembly District.

Estarzau, 42, is also the second cadet ever to start as a Manteca Police cadet and work their way up to police chief.

Estarzau began her law enforcement career at age 16 as a member of the Manteca Police Cadet Corps while attending Ripon High School. She worked as a dispatcher for the Ripon Police Department in her early years and later held various positions within the Manteca Police Department including that of dispatcher, community service officer and eventually police officer.

She was a member of the hostage negotiation team, a field training officer and a member of the Mounted Patrol with her horse Stanley. In 2008, she was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and in 2011 she was elevated to the position of Administrative Sergeant. She was promoted to Lieutenant last year.

Estarzau earned an Associate of Science Degree in the Administration of Justice from Modesto Junior College and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice Management from Union Institute and University in Sacramento. She has also attended numerous Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) classes. She has completed the Police Academy Certificate, Supervisory Leadership Certificate and is currently in the process of completing the management course.

Other credits include having been the police employee of the year, Manteca Rotary Officer of the Year in 2014, serving as public information officer, chair of the citywide Safety Committee, Terrorism Liaison Officer, Crisis Response Team Leader, a member of the California Hostage Negotiators and an instructor in Emergency Vehicle Operations.

Estarzau and her husband Jeremy have been married for the past 11 years. They have two children, Brandon, 8, and Brooke, 5. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, reading and horseback riding.

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UTILITIES AND ENERGY



Kathy Takahashi began her teaching career in the South East side of San Jose. It was there where she discovered her passion for helping young children who were facing the adversities of gangs, abuse, human trafficking and more. Later Kathy and her family moved to Tracy where she taught for four years and was fortunate enough to become a mentor-teacher and a part of Tracy Unified School District's (TUSD) hiring team.

In 2013, Kathy's son Jeff, a Tracy High School senior, had an idea to give back to his high school and help younger students at his elementary school. The idea was presented to the TUSD Superintendent, Tracy High Administration, President of Tracy Crime Stoppers (TCS) and the Tracy Police Chief. Her son explained the challenges students at his age and younger were facing on social media. Specifically, how students at that age felt they were unable to seek help from their parents or adults because the culture of social media kept "grownups" out of their exclusive world. Jeff explained that in this world things could become viral fast, as in the "Audrie Pott Case" from Saratoga High. After the presentation Jeff asked the panel to become his partners in establishing the Bulldog Project (BDP) to combat these issues, and all agreed. As a result, the BDP became the model for TUSD's "Students Speaking Out" program.

Kathy now sits on the BDP Advisory Board, the Tracy Police Advisory Board, and the TCS Board of Directors. The BDP is a student-led high school club, in partnership with TCS, which prepares middle school students for their transition into high school. Younger students are mentored on how to be successful in school by encouraging them to get good grades and become involved. The BDP hosts presentations to teach 5th-12th graders how to report anonymously to TCS for help with issues of bullying, cyberbullying, drugs, alcohol, gangs, violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. The BDP's core values are "see something, say something," "do the right thing," and "together we are stronger." The BDP believes every child has the right to a good education, to be happy, protected, and loved.

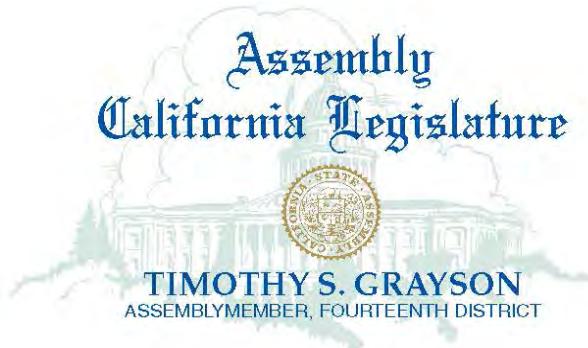
Today, the BDP's partnerships have extended throughout Tracy and San Joaquin County. The club has had over 1,750 current and past members and has reached out to over 25,000 students and community members. It is the largest on-campus high school club in California. In December 2014, Kathy helped organize a launch rally with the Audrie Pott Foundation after the passage of SB 838 "Audrie's Law," and for the premier of the Netflix documentary "Audrie and Daisy," where 2,500 students and community leaders attended. Kathy was instrumental in helping TUSD and Jefferson School District schools introduce the Anti-Bullying and Anti-Violence program to John C. Kimball High School. As a result, the creation of the Kimball High School Jaguar Project and the Jefferson School Jr. Bulldog Project were made possible.

The support and response to the BDP from the community and local schools has been phenomenal. Its wide success can be described as the "glue" that holds Kathy's community and schools together to promote the well-being and safety of children while bringing awareness throughout San Joaquin County. Kathy hopes that eventually this model will be adopted throughout the state.

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COMMITTEES
BANKING AND FINANCE
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS
JOBS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
AND THE ECONOMY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
RULES



It is my privilege to recognize Merl Craft as the 2018 Woman of the Year for the Fourteenth Assembly District.

Merl is a lifelong Pittsburg resident, Pittsburg High School graduate and retired Recreation Supervisor for the City of Pittsburg who has worked and volunteered within the Pittsburg community for over 46 years. As Recreation Supervisor she successfully facilitated collaborations between the city, school district, community and faith based organizations that secured over \$3.6 million in grant funding for the Pittsburg community, and she received the East Contra Costa County Dr. Martin Luther King "Love in Action Award" in 2007 in recognition of her contributions.

Merl is the founder of Open Opportunities Inc., a nonprofit organization that networks with government and other community organizations to promote and provide mentoring, healthy life choices, and career training for targeted adults who are often low income, un- or under-employed, or who may have had contact with the judicial system. Open Opportunities is the managing partner of the East Contra Costa County Future Build Pre-Apprentice Training Program, where Merl serves as the Program Manager. In addition to Future Build's impressive 85% placement rate for graduates, Merl has placed a special emphasis on recruiting women to the program and works with Tradeswomen Inc. and other agencies to train and enable low-income women to succeed in lucrative but predominately male dominated fields in the trades.

Merl has been a member of the Pittsburg City Council since 2014 and served as Mayor in 2017. She represents the City on a variety of local and regional bodies and has worked with other cities and the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors on regional issues related to transportation, economic development, and employment opportunities for residents of Pittsburg and the County as a whole.

As is evident through her impressive contributions, Merl Craft lives her life by the motto "There is no greater honor than to serve," and her contributions to Pittsburg and the East Bay cannot be overstated. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to recognize Merl as the Woman of the Year for my District.

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COMMITTEES
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EDUCATION
HEALTH
HUMAN SERVICES
SELECT COMMITTEES
CHAIR: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,
ENGINEERING AND MATH EDUCATION
BIOTECHNOLOGY
CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION
AND BUILDING A 21ST CENTURY
WORKFORCE
HOMELESSNESS
IMPROVING BAY AREA
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS
STATUS OF BOYS AND MEN OF COLOR
COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMISSION ON SPECIAL
EDUCATION

Mrs. Irma L. Anderson - 15th Assembly District Woman of the Year

Irma L. Anderson has been a civic and community leader in Contra Costa County for decades. Before coming to the West Coast, she attended high school in Boston where she was active in school activities and became Student Body President. She was her high school valedictorian and graduated with honors. Upon graduation, she attended Cornell School of Nursing and was the second African American student to attend and graduate in the school's history.

She was first employed by the Contra Costa County Health Department as a Public Health Nurse and over the years advanced her position, attaining the highest levels as the first African American Assistant Director and the first African American Director of Public Health Nursing in the County. Mrs. Anderson served on the National Credentialing Board of the American Nurse Association and served several terms as a governing Councilmember with the American Public Health Association.

Upon her retirement as Director of Public Health Nursing, she was elected in 1992 as the first African American woman to serve on the Richmond City Council and in 2001 was elected the first African American woman Mayor of a major city in California. She is credited with saving the city from bankruptcy and with developing a historic partnership with the school district to expand after-school programs in Richmond.

Mrs. Anderson continues to serve her community in many ways, including being an active board member of the West Contra Costa Healthcare District and as a mentor to the next generation of women leaders.

She is a proud member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Alpha Nu Omega Chapter/AKA.

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COMMITTEES
VICE CHAIR: HIGHER EDUCATION
TRANSPORTATION
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS
PRIVACY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

2018 Woman of the Year, Charlene Sigman, M.S.Ed, CCC-SLP

Charlene Sigman, an early-childhood educator and speech-language pathologist, started the nonprofit School of Imagination and Happy Talkers from her home in 2001 with a simple mission: *don't give up on any child, regardless of their ability to pay.*

Her innovative preschool and toddler program is based on a model of inclusion - empowering special needs children to learn alongside their typical peers, and teaching typical children appreciation of diversity and respect for all people. As word got out about Charlene's remarkable results, more than 100 children with autism and delays filled her home.

After a decade of temporary locations, Charlene's passion fueled the construction of a state-of-the-art campus in 2011. Here, children receive all their therapy and educational needs under one roof.

In addition to free screenings and case management, Charlene leads comprehensive intervention, parent and teacher training, parent and therapist collaboration and multidisciplinary therapy. Rather than rely only on a traditional model where therapy lasts an hour once or twice a week, at the School of Imagination and Happy Talkers, the family, school and clinician all partner to help give each child the foundation for success in learning and life.

In 2015, her program became the region's only inclusion center based on the Early Start Denver Model, a Time Magazine Top 10 Medical Breakthrough for the treatment of autism, and now serves nearly 600 children each year.

LICENSES & ACCREDITATIONS

- Master, Education & Communication Disorders. College of Saint Rose, NY
- Speech-Language Pathologist, Licensed
- Preschool Program Director, Certified
- Early Start Denver Model Certification, UC Davis MIND Institute

AWARDS & HONORS

- Jefferson Award for Public Service
- Women's Hall of Fame-Education, Alameda County
- Organization of the Year, Dublin
- Bay Area Parent, Best Special Needs Resource

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catharine B. Baker".

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COMMITTEES

CHAIR: HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS, TOURISM, AND INTERNET MEDIA
BUDGET
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS
JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEES

BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 4 ON STATE ADMINISTRATION

March 12, 2018

2018 Woman of the Year

Adama Iwu has served as Senior Director of State and Local Government Relations for Visa since January of 2015.

She is responsible for advancing Visa's technology and business policy issues in the western half of the U.S. These issues include a wide variety of technical topics such as cybersecurity, data security, virtual currencies, data breach, and privacy as well as engaging on general business issues such as labor and taxation. She also manages Visa's relationships with a number of technology and industry trade associations while collaborating with industry leaders and policymakers to advance smart policy objectives and drive Visa's state-level efforts on payments issues.

Before joining Visa, Adama was the head of California Government Affairs for Farmers Insurance from 2010-2015 and managed all of their political and legislative activities. She has also served as the Director of Western States Government Relations at Advance America and as Director of Government Affairs for the California Association of Physicians Groups. Adama began her career as an Executive Fellow in the Schwarzenegger administration in 2005.

In October of 2017, The Los Angeles Times published an open letter – led by Adama and signed by over 140 women – on the pervasive culture of sexual harassment, discrimination, and assault in politics. That letter struck a chord with women in politics and other industries, who reached out to share their stories – and to call for solutions. This resulted in the creation of the We Said Enough Foundation, whose mission is to eliminate bullying, harassment, and assault in the workplace. Adama now serves as the President of the Board. In December of 2017, Time Magazine recognized Adama as a Silence Breaker and featured her on the cover of their "Person of the Year" edition.

I am proud to honor Adama Iwu as Assembly District 17's Woman of the Year.

Sincerely,

DAVID CHIU
Assemblymember, 17th District

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COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMUNICATIONS AND CONVEYANCE
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
HEALTH
REVENUE AND TAXATION

Honorable Malia Vella

A native of Alameda, Malia Vella is an elected member of the Alameda City Council, where she currently serves as Vice Mayor. During her tenure in office, she has worked diligently to address the concerns and needs of the people of Alameda and to improve the quality of life of future generations.

Prior to her election to the Alameda City Council, Malia Vella served on the city's Historical Advisory Board and continues to serve on the Alameda Family Services Board, Spectrum Community Services Board, and Alameda Family Services League. Before assuming office, she also volunteered with the Philippine Independence Day Committee and Alameda's Sister City Association for several years.

An alumna of Wellesley College, from where she holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Architecture and Political Science, and Santa Clara University School of Law, where she earned her Juris Doctor degree with a special certificate in Public Interest and Social Justice, Malia Vella is a licensed attorney admitted to practice in California and the United States Supreme Court.

As a former staffer for multiple East Bay Members of the California Senate and Assembly, Malia Vella has amassed an impressive background in policy and constituent services and, since 2013, has worked as a policy director and attorney focusing on labor and employment law. As an Adjunct Professor of practice at Mills College's Lokey School of Business and Policy, she shares her expertise teaching ethical policy making and an introductory class on economics and policy making.

The contributions Malia Vella has made to the welfare and improvement of the 18th Assembly District have been invaluable and she has served as a worthy model for all residents of the state. Therefore it is my pleasure to recognize the Honorable Malia Vella as the 2018 Woman of the Year for District 18.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rob Bonta".

Rob Bonta
Assemblymember, 18th District

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CHAIR: BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 6
ON BUDGET PROCESS OVERSIGHT AND
PROGRAM EVALUATION
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS
JUDICIARY
UTILITIES AND COMMERCE

SELECT COMMITTEES
CHAIR: ASIA/CALIFORNIA TRADE AND
INVESTMENT PROMOTION

Joan Messing Graff

Joan Messing Graff is the President of Legal Aid at Work (LAAW). Appointed to her post in 1981, Ms. Graff is entering her 37th year of service, honored to still be working with passionate and committed colleagues and a dedicated Board of Directors to secure access to justice for low wage workers.

Established in 1916, as the Legal Aid Society of San Francisco, LAAW is the oldest legal aid organization west of the Mississippi and has remained in continuous operation since its founding. The original mandate of LAAW was to provide free legal advice, counsel and representation to poor persons who were unable to afford an attorney to secure a divorce, fight an eviction, or obtain government benefits. However, in 1971, in response to the growing urgency of the civil rights movement, LAAW redirected its resources to protect and defend employment and workplace rights of vulnerable communities facing discrimination on the job.

Ms. Graff was appointed Executive Director of Legal Aid at Work in 1981, the first woman in the organization's history to be chosen for that position. Over her time with LAAW, Ms. Graff helped to transform the organization. Initially it was a small but highly effective nonprofit that focused on combatting discrimination in employment based upon sex, race, national origin and disability. Over the years LAAW grew to be four times larger in staff and budget, enabling it to expand to other pressing issues such as discrimination against persons with HIV/AIDS, veterans, survivors of domestic violence, persons with hidden disabilities, members of the LGBTQ community, and girls who are denied equal athletic opportunity at school.

Responding to emerging issues LAAW also began addressing critical challenges including: plant closings without notice; wage and hour violations; sexual harassment; work and family policies; first source hiring for redevelopment projects; and the rights of immigrants – documented and undocumented. Today LAAW continues to initiate new projects and strategies to protect low wage workers who are especially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

Ms. Graff began her legal career working in the General Counsel's office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission at its headquarters in Washington, D.C., from 1968 to 1970. She then moved to San Francisco, where she helped found Equal Rights Advocates (ERA), one of the first nonprofit feminist law offices in the nation devoted to securing equality for women. During her eight-years with ERA, Ms. Graff primarily focused her efforts on representing women seeking to enter blue-collar work, the trades, and other nontraditional jobs.

Ms. Graff received her J.D. from Columbia Law School in 1967 and her B.S. from Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations in 1964.

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COMMITTEES
CHAIR: ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY
AND TOXIC MATERIALS
APPROPRIATIONS
PUBLIC SAFETY
REVENUE AND TAXATION
UTILITIES AND ENERGY

Chief Sheryl Boykins

Chief Sheryl Boykins is a dedicated community member who has spent her entire career serving the Hayward community. She is a graduate of LAPD leadership, and POST-Command College. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and her Masters in Adult Education from University of Phoenix. She also holds a second Master's degree in Communications from California State University East Bay.

Chief Boykins is a Bay Area native born and raised in San Francisco's Hunters Point and a proud Lowell High School alum. Her interest in public safety started after her family moved to Union City and she began working at Sears in Hayward's Southland Mall. She was so effective at spotting shoplifters she was promoted to corporate security and her path to the police academy soon followed.

Chief Boykins started her law enforcement career in 1982 as a reserve Police Officer with the Hayward Police Department. In 1984, she was hired as a Deputy with the Alameda County Deputy Sheriff's Office. In 1985, she returned to the Hayward Police Department where she spent the largest part of her 35-year career. She did this at a time when she was the only women on the force and was one of few people of color.

During her employment with the Hayward Police Department, Chief Boykins was a DARE Instructor and a Field Training Officer. In 1998, she became a Sergeant and supervised patrol teams and eventually the Gang Unit, Community Policing Unit, and the Crisis Negotiation Unit. In 2002, she was promoted to Lieutenant, where she served several management assignments including Patrol Watch Commander, Personnel and Training Commander, and Commander of the Southern District Community Policing Unit. She also served as an acting Captain in charge of the department's Field Operations Division.

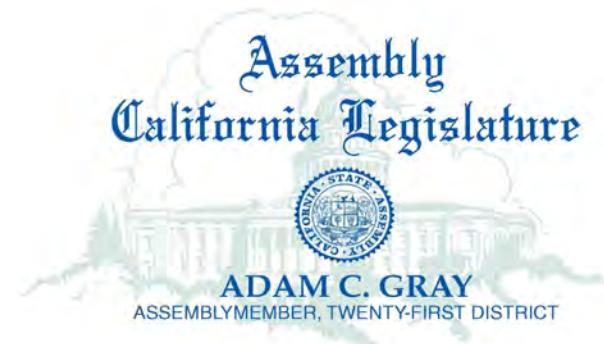
Chief Boykins is a pillar of the community. She is a long-time member of the Hayward Rotary, serves on the advisory board of the Hayward Occupational Program in Criminal Justice, served on the Hayward Personnel Board, and worked with the San Francisco Giants baseball team to start the Junior Giants, a summer camp for girls and boys which is in its fifteenth year. Her record in community policing has earned her many accolades including; the 2010 Hayward Area Recreation District Board of Directors' Award and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee Community Award in 2015. In addition to her community involvement she is an adjunct faculty member at Chabot College in the Administration of Justice Program, and a certified instructor in the area of community policing for the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training.

In April of 2013, she joined the California State University East Bay Police Department as its Chief. In that capacity, she began building relationships with the campus community and encourages the university police department to go out and meet students, faculty, and staff on a more personal level. In 2015, she launched an innovative phone based app allowing students to report problems and concerns in real time. Her motto is "I want people to see the department as 'one of us' not 'one of them.' Her leadership on campus and within the community is exemplary of this.

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AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE
AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS
JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Lillian Roberts has been a local leader in the area of Education and Civil Rights for half a century or more. She was instrumental in accomplishing the desegregation of schools in Merced County, serving as the first African-American teacher at a school in North Merced which served an all-white student body. She continued to make her mark in the area during a long and distinguished career in education, serving as a teacher, resource teacher, Principal, Affirmative Action Officer, and Chief Attendance Officer throughout her years at the Merced City School District.

Lillian also led the fight for desegregation in her personal life. She endured discriminatory behavior throughout her schooling, yet went on to earn a BA and Master's Degrees in Education. After marrying the love of her life, Vernie Roberts, she joined him in running several successful businesses in Merced. Then, with their blended family of five, they were one of the first African-American families to build a home in North Merced, even after being told that would not be possible by local realtors. She was also a founding member of the MAD group of Democrats who routinely attended public events and establishments, as an integrated group, to help Merced attain 'true integration' during the 1960s-70s.

Lillian retired from education in 1992, but continued to serve children by becoming the first Executive Director of the Merced Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association. After establishing the program, she continued to serve for years on the Board of Directors. She has been recognized for her contributions to our community by numerous organizations, including the Merced County Historical Society and the NAACP of Merced County.

Lillian's own children, Albert, Kenneth, and Connie are all college graduates with successful careers. It is my great privilege to represent her in the 21st Assembly District and, more importantly, to call her my dear friend and mentor.

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Debra Rush is a wife, mother of seven, and the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Breaking the Chains - a nonprofit that works with law-enforcement to rescue, restore and shelter female victims of human trafficking.

Debra is also a survivor of human trafficking. Her mother was a trafficking victim, which meant Debra was born into it. Her insight and experience into the rapidly expanding industry is the driving force behind the creation of Breaking the Chains.

In 1999, Debra was rescued and taken to a confidential location, isolating her from the region where she was being held captive as a sex worker. Unfortunately, at that time there were limited resources available to help her cope with the specific trauma she had endured.

After years of guilt and shame, Debra found the courage and strength to begin her healing journey and made it her mission to rescue other women trapped in human trafficking. Breaking the Chains began in 2014 when Debra partnered with friend Tiffany Apodaca. Together with support from local law enforcement and dozens of community volunteers, they built the Central Valley's first adult safe house and trauma treatment campus for human trafficking survivors.

The Breaking the Chains campus is a remarkable example of dedication in the Central Valley to helping victims of human trafficking. The safe house provides long term shelter to six survivors. Those seeking non-residential programs have access to various trauma services on a daily basis.

Debra believes that awareness of the issue is the best way to break the chains of human trafficking in the lives of women and girls forever.

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COMMITTEES
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GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
JOBS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
THE ECONOMY
PRIVACY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
TRANSPORTATION

SELECT COMMITTEES
CHAIR: CENSUS
CHAIR: MASTER PLAN FOR HIGHER
EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA

SPECIAL COMMITTEES
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS

Luisa Buada has over 37 years of experience in health care administration, management and organizational development.

She was the founding Executive Director of both Clinicas de Salud in the Salinas Valley and of Berkeley Primary Care Access Clinic, and co-founded Life Long Medical Care in Berkeley as part of a merger with Over 60 Health Center in 1996.

She participated as a consultant in the development of Ravenswood Family Health Center (RFHC) in East Palo Alto, and has been the CEO for RFHC since 2003.

Luisa received her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) School of Nursing in 1977 and her Master's degree in Public Health (MPH) Policy and Administration from the University of California, Berkeley in 1990.

In March of 2010, she was inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame. Recently, Luisa was awarded the 2016 Visionary of the Year Award sponsored by The San Francisco Chronicle and the School of Economics and Business Administration at St. Mary's College and the John W. Gardner Exemplary Leadership Award from the American Leadership Forum of Silicon Valley.

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Assembly
California Legislature
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SPORTS, TOURISM, AND INTERNET MEDIA
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-FIFTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
INSURANCE
TRANSPORTATION
WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE
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CHAIR: HATE CRIMES
ASIA/CALIFORNIA TRADE AND
INVESTMENT PROMOTION
FOSTER CARE
IMPROVING BAY AREA
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS
APPOINTMENTS
COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

Sharon Yuhsiang Yang

Coming from humble beginnings, Sharon Yuhsiang Yang has always had the passion to serve and help her family, friends, and community. Sharon was born in a small countryside town in Taiwan. The second oldest out of six children, Sharon always felt a sense of duty to protect and care for her siblings. Even when she was only five years old, when her older sister was bullied and afraid to go to school, Sharon stood up to her antagonist. One day in first grade, when her classmate fell ill, she carried her for two miles back to her house. When her younger brother was struck with polio, she took him to and from school on her bike. She was fiercely independent and always stood for what was right.

Sharon graduated from Feng Chia University in Taichung, Taiwan with a degree in international business. After working in Taiwan for a few years, she immigrated to Los Angeles, California in 1985. Shortly after, Sharon met and married Joe Yang. They moved to San Jose where they had two children, Steve and Grace in 1987 and 1990 respectively.

In 1992, Sharon happened upon a charity organization called Tzu Chi Foundation, nonprofit humanitarian organization started by a Buddhist nun, Master Cheng Yen, in Taiwan that aims to help anyone in need regardless of creed or background. The teachings of Master Cheng Yen deeply touched Sharon and ignited her passion to help and care for others. In the past 25 years, Sharon has been involved in various projects as a Tzu Chi Volunteer such as: regular visits to nursing homes and senior centers, passing out food at the food bank, park clean ups, jump starting recycling programs, serving hot meals at family shelters, providing haircuts to the homeless, and providing local disaster relief. Although much time and her own personal resources were spent, Sharon never complained or sought recognition. She humbly helped those in need with a smile.

In addition to helping the underprivileged and in need, Sharon had a passion for education. She taught abacus and mental math calculation at weekend Chinese language schools for 20 years. In 1998, she began working one on one with an autistic child daily. This lead to her bringing a group of teenage Tzu Chi volunteers to spend time with special education children every Saturday from 1999 to 2007 at Friends of Children with Special Needs. During that time, she also began working as a Paraeducator for children with special needs in 2005 under the Santa Clara Office of Education, where she currently works now.

For the past 30 years, Sharon has instilled a sense of altruism in her children and then the countless children she taught over the years. She has devoted her life to community service without any desire for accolades or awards, following Master Cheng Yen's teaching to "love and care for all."

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Assembly California Legislature

DEVON J. MATHIS
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-SIXTH DISTRICT



Sharon Allison-Crook has been nominated as Woman of the Year by Assemblyman Devon Mathis of District 26. She is the Director of Marketing and Programs at American Veterans (AMVETS) Department of California and a Notary Public.

She was raised in Tulare, California as the youngest of six kids, and graduated from Tulare Western High School. She held offices in the Associated Student Body and the Future Farmers of America (FFA) in high school, which taught her the importance of volunteerism and giving back to the community. She then went on to take business courses at the College of the Sequoias in Visalia, California.

This year is her 22nd year of involvement in the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life. Twenty of those years have been in a leadership position, including chairing the Visalia and Tulare events. She also has worked very hard for the Tulare Chamber of Commerce as an Ambassador for many years, Chamber Ambassador Chairman for two years, and she was awarded the 2015 Ambassador of the Year. The Visalia Chamber of Commerce also recognizes Mrs. Allison-Crook as an Ambassador and current Ambassador Co-Chairman. For the Visalia Chamber, she was awarded 2017 Ambassador of the Year, and she served on the Oktoberfest Committee. Last, but not least, she is also a Tulare Kings Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Ambassador, and current Ambassador Co-Chairman.

Sharon Allison-Crook is involved with several other organizations, including:

- Chairman of Central Valley WOMEN'S Network
- Planning Committee for Tulare Project Homeless Connect
- Planning Committee and Treasurer for Tulare Veterans Opportunity Day
- Citizens Assisting Local Veterans In Need (CALVIN)
- The Kings County Veterans Coalition
- Committee Member for World Ag Expo, California Antique Farm Equipment Show and the AG Ventures Gold Tournament

She is married to Everett Crook, and they have a shih-tzu named Ella. In their spare time, they love to watch NASCAR races, and have attended the race in Fontana for the past 17 years.

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COMMITTEES
CHAIR: AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE
EDUCATION
JUDICIARY
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE



Teresa Castellanos has been an inspiration and leader for many in San José. For over three decades, she has effortlessly dedicated herself to improving the quality of life for diverse communities in Santa Clara County. Throughout her extensive career, she has illustrated true leadership in championing the efforts to organize labor movements for equality and justice, implementing programs for immigrant and refugee people, and advocating for educational rights in the San Jose Unified School District.

Teresa has been a guiding force in collaborating with local agencies and colleagues to bring close to 154,000 Santa Clara County residents the assistance needed for their application process. This was a profound piece to improving the opportunities for our diverse population. She is continuously working on building the bridges across multicultural, multilingual, and multi-generational neighborhoods to develop and recognize common goals.

Teresa holds a Masters of Arts in Public Administration, and a Bachelors of Arts in Latin American Studies. She is currently the Immigrant Services Coordinator for the Santa Clara County Office of Immigrant Relations, Trustee for San José Unified School District since 2012, and serves on the Board of Metro Ed focusing on Adult and Career Technical Education.

Teresa has been recognized for her courageous work in improving the opportunities and quality of life for so many individuals. She has received many awards including the Latino Leadership Alliance Institute, and Congressional and County recognitions for her contributions and work for the immigrant and refugee communities in San José. Amongst all her accomplishments and achievements, Teresa is also a loving mother of four young adults, grandmother of two, and godmother of two children.

Teresa has demonstrated true leadership and devotion for the constituents of San José, which is why I am honored to recognize her as the Assembly District 27- 2018 Woman of the Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ash Kalra".

Honorable Ash Kalra
27th Assembly District

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COMMITTEES
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COMMUNICATIONS AND CONVEYANCE
ELECTIONS AND REDISTRICTING
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
HIGHER EDUCATION

CHAIR: LEGISLATIVE LGBT CAUCUS
CO-CHAIR: CALIFORNIA TECHNOLOGY
AND INNOVATION CAUCUS

Celeste Walker

Assembly District 28 Woman of the Year

Celeste Walker is a small business owner, community organizer, public servant, cancer-survivor, wife, and mother. She is a Bay Area native and longtime resident of Assembly District 28. Celeste graduated from Los Gatos High School in 2000 with a 4.4 GPA and an acceptance letter to Santa Clara University (SCU), all while beating lymphoma.

After graduating from SCU with a degree in psychology, Celeste raised her children while developing her chocolate business at night when they slept. She and her business partner experimented for over a year before selling their chocolates at local farmers' markets and finally opening a shop in downtown Campbell.

When she opened Snake & Butterfly Chocolate Factory with her parents and her best friend, Mara, she knew that she wanted the shop to be a space where she could do things that matter and make the community a more vibrant place. She ran for Campbell City Council in 2014 because she hoped to change city permitting regulations that prohibited her shop from hosting live music in the evenings. Although she was not successful in her campaign, she was appointed to serve her community on the Campbell Parks & Recreation Commission.

The election of Donald Trump in November 2016 drove her to act and reignited her passion to use her storefront for a greater purpose. In January 2017, Celeste co-founded the Orchard City chapter of Indivisible (OCI), a nationwide grassroots movement to resist the Trump Administration's agenda. Over thirty people attended the second meeting of OCI, and the group quickly outgrew the Snake & Butterfly space. Since its founding, Orchard City Indivisible has become a community to over 1,400 local activists who meet in the Campbell United Church of Christ on a weekly basis. Celeste's work leading and organizing OCI has been featured on Valley Politics, San Jose Inside, NBC Bay Area, and NPR.

Celeste plans to run for Campbell City Council again in 2018 with the goal of making Campbell a national leader in progressive governance and increasing millennial representation. She currently lives in Campbell with her husband, Daniel, and three children, Dylan (16), Parker (14), and Lorenzo (11).

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Evan Low".

Assemblymember Evan Low
28th District

COMMITTEES
BANKING AND FINANCE
BUDGET
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 5 ON
 PUBLIC SAFETY
HUMAN SERVICES
NATURAL RESOURCES
SELECT COMMITTEES
CHAIR: COASTAL PROTECTION AND
 ACCESS TO NATURAL RESOURCES
CO-CHAIR: ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS



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LOIS VARNER

Through her work, Lois Varner has contributed to the communities where she has lived, has improved public health, and has helped educate the next generation of health professionals. She richly deserves the honor of the designation as the 29th Assembly District's Woman of the Year for 2018.

In 2015, Ms. Varner founded the Fremont Street Mission for Elderly Women in Seaside, California via nonprofit church sponsorship. The Mission assists dozens of older homeless women in the Monterey Bay region with access to food, safe shelters, job placements, and will eventually expand to include legal and financial counseling services and more permanent housing assistance.

Ms. Varner has worked for over fifty years as a public health nurse in Michigan and California. While employed as the Director of the Visiting Nurse Eastern Office in Detroit, she was assigned to the first Medicare Protocols Task Force. She participated with designated rescue crews during the Detroit riot. While working with the Santa Clara County Health Department, she designed and directed the first Discharge Planning System for Valley Medical Center of San José. Additionally, she participated in two Health Department Senior Service projects for "hidden seniors", both initially federally granted funds and then taken over under combined state and county funds. As Director of Nursing at Ava Maria Convalescent Hospital in Monterey, she began part time teaching at the Monterey County Adult School Program in Pacific Grove. She continued there for over 20 years and helped hundreds of graduates begin a career path towards registered nursing and other specialties. Currently, she teaches classes for CNAs needing recertification training.

Ms. Varner has earned numerous academic accomplishments. She attended the Wayne State University, College of Nursing in Detroit to become an RN with a Public Health Nurse Certificate. She attended the University of Michigan School of Public Health for her MPH Degree in Administration and Education, with a Specialty Certificate in Gerontology. In 2005, she attended a graduate program in Public Policy the Panetta Institute at the California State University, Monterey Bay. Most recently, in 2014, she earned her Legal Nurse Consultant Competency to begin part time work with lawyers defending nurses against malpractice suits.

Ms. Varner embodies the spirit of selflessness through her work to improve the lives of people in the Monterey Bay region.

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COMMITTEES
CHAIR: AGRICULTURE
AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE
BUDGET
INSURANCE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

SUBCOMMITTEES
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 4 ON
STATE ADMINISTRATION

SELECT COMMITTEES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
INVESTMENT IN RURAL CALIFORNIA

Lorri A. Koster

Lorri A. Koster is the former Chairman, CEO and was a primary shareholder of Mann Packing Company; a grower, shipper, processor of fresh vegetables, headquartered in California's Salinas Valley. She brokered a sale of Mann Packing to Del Monte Fresh Produce, North America, in February of 2018.

Lorri was raised in the agricultural industry and is the third generation of her family to work in fresh produce. She started her full time career at Mann in 1990. During this tenure, Lorri directed the firm's marketing and communication programs.

In 2000, Lorri was president of the board of directors of the International Fresh Cut Produce Association, being the first woman to chair an American produce trade association. She is a past chairman of the Grower-Shipper Association of Central California where she became the second woman to hold the position and represented the first father-daughter and third generation chairmanship as her father was at the helm of the Association in 1983 and her great uncle, Art Sbrana, in 1936.

In 2005, Koster was named one of the industry's top 40 produce professionals under the age of 40 by *Produce Business* magazine. In 2009, she was asked to keynote and was given an award of excellence at the United Fresh Produce Association's Women in Produce event. In 2011, she was named one of the industry's "Top 25" by trade publication *THE PACKER*. *Progressive Grocer* magazine named her one of the Top 100 Women in Grocery in 2011. In 2013, *THE PACKER* named Koster Produce Marketer of the Year, making her a second generation recipient as her father earned the distinction in 1983.

After several years of writing, raising two young boys and working for several produce companies (including Mann) on a consulting basis, she returned to the company full time in 2006 to represent her family's interest and lead the business development, marketing and product innovation efforts.

On a local level, Lorri is a graduate of Leadership Salinas Valley and was named Outstanding Young Farmer by the Salinas Jaycees in 1994 and Outstanding Young Citizen in 2005. In 2006, she was named an Outstanding Young Californian by the California Junior Chamber of Commerce and Ag Woman of the Year by Salinas-based nonprofit Ag Against Hunger.

Lorri serves on the board of the Monterey Bay Economic Partnership. Lorri is a board director for Rancho Cielo, a local nonprofit addressing workforce development needs for troubled youth. She is a member of the Business Advisory Council for CSU, Monterey Bay's School of Business. In November of 2015, the Center for Community Advocacy awarded Lorri their Ben Heller Award in honor of her advocacy for farm workers.

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COMMITTEES
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ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
BUDGET
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND TOXIC
MATERIALS
HIGHER EDUCATION
HUMAN SERVICES
SELECT COMMITTEE
CO-CHAIR: HEALTH CARE DELIVERY
SYSTEMS AND UNIVERSAL COVERAGE
JOINT COMMITTEES
FAIRS ALLOCATION AND CLASSIFICATION
LEGISLATIVE BUDGET

RE: Women of the year: Dorothy “Dottie” Smith Biography

Dorothy “Dottie” Smith grew-up in the poverty-stricken North Avenue Community of Southwest Fresno. Dottie worked in the grape and cotton fields, along with her parents and siblings from the age of 6 until high school. As a young woman, Dottie learned that education was the pathway to new horizons and that being poor didn’t equate to being Poor Class. Dottie learned at a young age how to make stepping stones out of road blocks and barriers. Community service and helping others, along with earning a college degree was an essential part of her “Rites of Passage.”

Dottie attended local schools from Kindergarten through college, and is a graduate of Washington Union High School and California State University, Fresno with a Bachelor of Science in early Childhood Education.

As a young woman, Dottie founded the girls club “Women of Tomorrow.” As a student at Washington Union High School she lead protests, student body election recounts in an effort to combat the overt racial injustices designed to inhibit Black students.

In 1980, Dottie founded the North Avenue Community Reunion and wrote a commentary in the Fresno Bee highlighting the North Avenue Community, its Reunions and the number of educational and professional successes. Dottie also became one of the youngest persons in the state of California to be elected to a school board when she was first elected to the Fresno Colony School Board a CSU, Fresno college student. She served 33 years as an elected member of the State Center Community College Board of Trustees and was recognized for organizing the nation’s first K-12 Community College Summit to bridge the gap between K-12 and Community Colleges.

Dottie has worked with many community organizations and has organized many community events including Father/Daughter and Women Alike Luncheons, African American Women’s Conferences, Minority Business After- Hours, was the Founder and first president of Fresno’s African American Chamber of Commerce, former Board Member of Planned Parenthood, Former Board Member of Valley PBS, former President of the Fresno County Democratic Women’s Club, and has been a long-time active member of the Fresno County Democratic Central Committee and was most recently appointed Co-Chair of the California Democratic Party’s Affirmative Action Committee by C DP Chair, Eric Bauman.

Dottie’s awards and recognitions include: key to the City by Former Fresno Mayor Karen Humphrey, Member of the 2nd Class of Leadership Fresno; and recognitions by the United Black Men of Fresno, NAACP Fresno Chapter, the Fresno County Democratic Central Committee, and Trailblazer Award recipient by Fresno’s African American Museum.

Dottie is the proud parent of Anna and Andrew Smith. She describes them as her “greatest achievement and have contributed to [her] success story.”

Sincerely,

Dr. Joaquin Arambula
Assemblymember
31st District

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GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
RULES
VETERANS AFFAIRS
WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE

SELECT COMMITTEES
CALIFORNIA-MÉXICO BI-NATIONAL
AFFAIRS
LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY AND
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
PORTS AND GOODS MOVEMENT

JOINT COMMITTEE ON RULES



Cherylee Wegman

Woman of the Year | Assembly District 32

Wasco City Council Member and Chairwoman of the Kern Council of Governments

Cherylee Wegman was first elected to the city council in 1998 and is currently serving her second term as the Chairwoman of the Kern Council of Governments (COG).

Born and raised a Wasco native, Wegman has dedicated her political career to improving city residents' quality of life. In 2001, she became the City's first female mayor. Cherylee is a committed, diligent, and responsible public servant. Her level-headed approach to problem solving combined with her open-minded spirit enables her to view issues objectively and from numerous perspectives. She continually expresses her desire to serve the community and her country at large. She has also worked diligently with Caltrans District 6 Director, Shari Bender Ehlert on many occasions to facilitate and improve Kern County transportation issues.

One highlight of Cherylee's political career was when Governor Jerry Brown appointed the Wasco City Councilmember and Kern COG Chairwoman to the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley; a public-private partnership that is focused on improving economic vitality and the quality of life for the 3.9 million residents who call San Joaquin Valley home. She was instrumental in providing line dancing instruction to seniors, dance lessons for the community, health fairs, and community events such as a BBQ cook off and Menudo cook off, to stimulate activity in the local downtown. Dedicated to the history of her community, she is working with the local high school art class students in providing a historic mural in the historic downtown. She is a strong advocate for the local Future Farmers of America.

Throughout her journey of serving the greater San Joaquin Valley, Wegman has worn many hats and has made herself a valuable asset to the community. She has served as the President of the South San Joaquin Division of The League of California Cities and has occupied a seat as the board member for numerous endeavors including; Valley Voice, Cal Cog and LAFCO. Presently, Wegman is a board member for the Delano Community Alliance, Cal-Vans, and is the Chairman of Kern Council of Governments for Kern County. In addition, she also sits on the Citizen Advisory Committee at Wasco State Prison; serves on the Board of Directors of the Association of California Cities Allied with Prisons; and is an active member of the Wasco Community Alliance Partnership.

Cherylee has proven herself to be a reliable member of the community with continuous dedication to the people of Kern County and the San Joaquin Valley as a whole by working for the people and enabling the collective voices of many heard through her selfless, diligent work and perseverance to better the community.

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COMMITTEES
VICE CHAIR: BUDGET
VICE CHAIR: COMMUNICATIONS AND CONVEYANCE
APPROPRIATIONS
PRIVACY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

JOINT COMMITTEE
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

As the representative for the State Assembly's 33rd Assembly District, I am pleased to recognize San Bernardino County Sheriff Department Deputy Chief Lana Tomlin as my 2018 Woman of the Year.

Deputy Chief Lana Tomlin has been a resident of the High Desert since 1989. She has been married to her husband Gary for over 28 years and they have two children, a daughter and a son. Lana began her law enforcement career with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department in 1990. After graduating from the Sheriff's Academy, Lana worked at the Central Detention Center, West Valley Detention Center, and the Barstow Jail before being assigned to patrol at the Barstow Station.

In 1996, Lana was promoted to detective and assigned to the SWAT/Narcotics Division, where she worked the Street Enforcement Team, Highway Interdiction, and the Crime Impact Team. Lana was assigned to the Employee Resources Division in 1999. After a year of doing backgrounds and recruiting, Lana was promoted to Sergeant and assigned to the West Valley Detention Center. As a sergeant, Lana worked patrol at the Apple Valley Station followed by an assignment in the Internal Affairs Division, where she served as the executive officer.

Lana was promoted to Lieutenant in 2007 and returned to the West Valley Detention Center, where she served as a shift watch Commander, the Commander of the Transportation unit, and as the Executive Officer. Lana was reassigned to patrol in 2009 and served as second in command at the Fontana Station. Lana's final assignment as a Lieutenant was at the Apple Valley Station. In 2012, Lana was promoted to the rank of Captain and remained at the Apple Valley Station.

Recently promoted to Deputy Chief, Lana currently oversees the Desert Patrol Bureau. This patrol region encompasses over 19,000 square miles and is served by seven patrol stations, which includes the contract cities of Adelanto, Apple Valley, Hesperia, Needles, Twentynine Palms, Victorville and Yucca Valley as well as the unincorporated areas of Barstow, the Colorado River, Joshua Tree, Morongo Valley and the Victor Valley.

Lana holds an Associate of Science Degree in Administration of Justice from Victor Valley College and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Organizational Leadership from Azusa Pacific University. She graduated from the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute for Police in 2016. In addition to her work with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Lana is also active in the community. Supporting the Apple Valley Police Activities League (PAL) Program, Apple Valley Chamber of Commerce and Apple Valley Rotary.

Sincerely,

JAY OBERNOLTE
Assemblyman, 33rd District

The image shows a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay Obernolte". Below the signature, the name "JAY OBERNOLTE" is printed in a standard sans-serif font, followed by "Assemblyman, 33rd District" in a smaller font size.

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COMMITTEES
VICE CHAIR: TRANSPORTATION
APPROPRIATIONS
BUDGET
UTILITIES AND ENERGY
RULES, REPUBLICAN ALTERNATE

SUBCOMMITTEES
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 3 ON
RESOURCES AND TRANSPORTATION



2018 Woman of the Year- Lavonne Jarrow

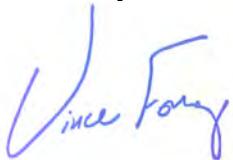
Lavonne Jarrow has been the lead kitchen supervisor at the Mission at Kern County for more than 16 years where she has been in charge of making sure meals get prepared three times a day, 365 days a year for the hundreds of hungry and homeless that come to the Mission each day. In all, Lavonne has either prepared herself or seen to the preparation of more than 2,300,000 meals since she started working at the Mission.

Prior to 2001, Lavonne struggled with homelessness and addiction before entering the Mission's one year Christian Life Discipleship Program. Upon her graduation from the program Lavonne felt a "calling" to stay and work at the Mission's food services department where she has dedicated her life to feeding the homeless and helping other men and women going through many of the same problems she had faced. In her own words Lavonne said, "I never expected to wind up in the kitchen here but God called me and when He speaks, I listen."

Lavonne has overcome many obstacles in life including jail and addiction. She is beloved by her coworkers, Mission volunteers, church family and the countless men and women she has helped over the last 17 years. Her motto is, "if I can do it, anyone can." Her work ethic, compassion for others and dedication to service is an inspiration to all that meet her.

Lavonne Jarrow's story is proof that with faith, determination and support; futures can be bright and service to others is service to oneself. I truly believe Lavonne is a hero to so many in need and to our community. Thank you for your commitment to the 34th district and we are proud to honor your compassion and service.

Sincerely,



Vince Fong
California State Assembly, 34th District

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Assembly California Legislature



JORDAN CUNNINGHAM
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-FIFTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
CO-CHAIR: ETHICS
VICE CHAIR: JUDICIARY
VICE CHAIR: RULES
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS
UTILITIES AND ENERGY

SELECT COMMITTEES
CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION
AND BUILDING A 21ST CENTURY
WORKFORCE
CYBERSECURITY

JOINT COMMITTEE
CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES

A lifelong Atascadero resident, Shirley Summers has always been committed to working for her community and has held a number of positions throughout her career to help the less fortunate.

Shirley Summers served the region's most vulnerable individuals as a licensed clinical social worker for the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Social Services for over twenty-five years. Shirley also worked for the California Department of Corrections, helping mentally ill inmates prepare to re-enter the community.

Much of Shirley's life has been devoted to volunteer work. She is an active member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), which advances equity for women and girls through advocacy and education. Shirley also volunteers with the Red Cross in the Disaster Mental Health Services Department and assists returning military personnel and their families. Her other volunteer work includes service on the County Commission on Aging and the Advisory Committee for the San Luis Obispo Legal Advocacy Foundation.

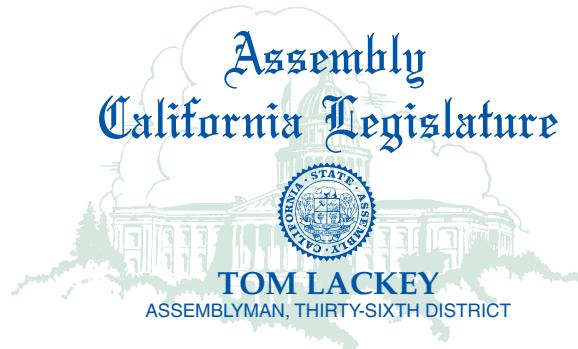
Shirley also serves as Treasurer of the Friends of the Atascadero Library, and as the Volunteer Coordinator for "Atascadero's Dancing With Our Stars" in support of the Atascadero Library. Shirley also finds time to deliver meals through the Senior Nutrition Program, a program to provide seniors with healthy and nutritious food.

Shirley was nominated to serve as an Atascadero City Planning Commissioner, which advises the Atascadero City Council in matters of city planning such as zone changes, variances, divisions of property, and future plans for the city's growth. Through this position she was able to have a positive impact on the future of our region and promote the healthy development of the City of Atascadero.

In 2016, Shirley was one of three women memorialized on the Women's Wall of Fame for San Luis Obispo County, which honors women who have given in an exemplary way to better the lives of others throughout the year. Shirley also serves as a judge in the Atascadero Colony Days Parade and enjoys enhancing the beauty of her hometown with her gardening.

Shirley Summers is a true model citizen and her devotion to her community and helping others is inspiring. I am pleased to honor Shirley Summers as the 35th Assembly District Woman of the Year, and I am grateful for all her work in our community.

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VICE CHAIR: PUBLIC SAFETY ACCOUNTABILITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW
BUDGET
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Karina Drees is the CEO and General Manager of Mojave Air & Space Port (MASP), home to a diverse set of companies manufacturing and testing air and space vehicles. As CEO, Drees is responsible for maintaining more than 3,000 acres of property and managing 150 tenant contracts. She oversees all testing operations at the airport and manages procedures, business operations and regional partnership development. Drees leads the implementation of strategic initiatives for the benefit of the companies operating in Mojave as well as the region.

Prior to MASP, Drees held senior positions in strategy, business development and operations for growing technology companies. She was most recently a member of the strategy and positioning team at SRA International. Before joining SRA, Drees held leadership positions at two investor-backed high tech startup companies in the Washington DC area.

Drees has a BS from Arizona State University and an MBA from the MIT Sloan School of Management. She also completed International Space University's (ISU) Summer Session Program in Beijing, China. She serves as treasurer on the executive committee of the Commercial Spaceflight Federation and is a board member of the MIT \$100K Entrepreneurship Competition.

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COMMITTEES
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BUDGET
HEALTH
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #2 ON
EDUCATION FINANCE
SELECT COMMITTEE
CHAIR: NONPROFIT SECTOR
JOINT COMMITTEE
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

TRACY LEHR

At a time when free press is under constant attack, it is reassuring to know that we have local news teams that produce unbiased reports on issues affecting our communities. And in times of natural disaster their presence is critical to assist emergency responders in broadcasting safety information.

Tracy Lehr is one such reporter. She was one of the first on the scene when the Thomas Fire broke out in Ventura County and again when Montecito was struck by the devastating flood and debris flow incident. Her commitment to ensuring her community is well-informed is commendable.

Tracy Lehr joined KEYT (ABC affiliate), serving Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties two decades ago as a reporter, anchor and host. She is currently the KEYT, KCOY(CBS) and KKTV (FOX) weekend anchor and evening live reporter.

Tracy received her big break reporting on radio and TV in Vail, Colorado.

As the daughter of two university professors she thought it was important to continue her education, earning a Master's Degree in broadcast journalism from USC.

Prior to joining the KEYT team, Tracy anchored at The Business Channel in Los Angeles, KHSL in Chico and the Ventura County News Network. She also co-hosted the national program RV-Today on the Outdoor Life Network.

Tracy solo anchored the Emmy and Bill Stout award winning breaking newscast the day the President Reagan died. Over the years she has won a number of Edward R. Murrow and Golden Mike Awards.

Tracy lives in Ventura County and is the proud mother of a high school freshman and a UC Berkeley freshman. Her husband is a film composer and two-time lung cancer survivor.

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ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS,
TOURISM, AND INTERNET MEDIA
BANKING AND FINANCE
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

Judy Penman moved to Santa Clarita with her husband Doug twenty-eight years ago, and immediately became involved in a wide variety of community service activities in the valley. Local organizations ranging from A to Z (American Heart Association to Zonta) have benefited from her energy, enthusiasm, and passion for service.

In leadership roles, Judy has served three times as the President of the Zonta Club (and has been an active member for 20 years), and is currently putting together Women in Service for the Zonta Club. She has also served on the Board of Directors of the Domestic Violence Center for 15 years, including three terms as President, has co-chaired the Senior Wine Auction three times, and served as Vice President of the Circle of Hope, where she is currently still a board member. Last year, she took the helm as the Resource Development Vice President. She also always serves at the annual Boys and Girls Club auction, and as a volunteer at Celebrity Waiter. For the last 12 years, she has participated in ushering for the College of the Canyons Performing Arts Center.

Her many hours of service have translated into raising thousands of dollars for community organizations. She was recognized as the “outstanding volunteer of the year” in 2007 by the Boys & Girls Club and has a long history of supporting many of the Santa Clarita Valley’s best known fundraisers including the Committee on Aging’s Celebrity Waiter, the Boys & Girls Club’s Auction and Festival of Trees, and Zonta’s Celebrity Tribute.

It has been said by many in the community that if there is an event anywhere in the Santa Clarita Valley, you can find Judy volunteering at it. Currently, Judy is involved in Medicare counseling for seniors through the Department of Aging, where she spends her time trying to assist those in need through the difficult healthcare process.

Judy lives by the Helen Keller quote, “Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.”

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AND THE ECONOMY
SELECT COMMITTEES
SMALL BUSINESS IN THE INLAND
EMPIRE
CRAFT BREWING AND DISTILLING

Mayor Acquanetta Warren

Acquanetta Warren was elected as Fontana's first female and first African American Mayor in December 2010 and was re-elected in 2014. Mayor Warren has focused her administrations on improving public safety, bringing business, generating jobs, creating educational opportunities and advocating for a healthier community.

Mayor Warren is a member of the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) leadership team and Educational Task Force. In 2016, the USCM named the City of Fontana the number one mid-sized city in the Nation for eliminating childhood obesity. Mayor Warren is the founder of the Healthy Fontana Program, which is now a model program across the nation. Through her efforts, the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health announced a 47% reduction in Fontana's hospitalization rates for obesity related illnesses in both children and adults and a 46% reduction in obesity rates in both children and adults through the years of 2008-2012.

Mayor Warren is striving to improve public safety and in 2013, Fontana was named as one of the top 20 safest communities in the entire country. Mayor Warren, broken-hearted over some of the recent violence in the nation, recently held an event to have an open conversation connecting police, church and community. This event brought the public out to share concerns, gain a deeper understanding of issues impacting law enforcement and the community working towards "One Fontana."

Fiscal responsibility has also been one of Mayor Warren's top priorities and in 2017 Fontana was rated as one of the financially strongest cities in America. She is an advocate for new businesses and jobs, always promoting the city as "Open for Business" and increasing jobs and sales tax. In 2011, Mayor Warren started a television show titled "Fontana is Open for Business," showcasing local businesses and the services they offer. Recently, these efforts were recognized with the City being ranked fourth in the State of California in five-year annual growth of retail sales.

Mayor Warren has been an active community advocate for education. While in office Mayor Warren has held education summits with local schools, the community college district, and business leaders to begin outlining plans to prepare our youth for future job markets. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science/Urban Studies from Occidental College and an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Theology from Next Dimension Bible College. Warren is a member of Water of Life Community Church and has three children and one grandchild.

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COMMITTEES
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS
COMMUNICATIONS AND CONVEYANCE
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MATERIALS
JUDICIARY

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SOLUTIONS
ASIA/CALIFORNIA TRADE AND
INVESTMENT PROMOTION
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND THE
GREEN ECONOMY IN THE INLAND
EMPIRE

BOARD MEMBER
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS
CONSERVANCY BOARD

CAUCUSES
CHAIR: CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE
BLACK CAUCUS
ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS

Biography of Marina Khubesrian, M.D.

Dr. Khubesrian currently serves as Mayor Pro Tem for the City of South Pasadena. She was elected to the South Pasadena City Council in November 2011, and served as Mayor from 2013-2014. Under her leadership, the City of South Pasadena developed cost sharing partnerships with the Five City Alliance and Tri-City Fire Chief programs, enacted plastic bag and e-cigarette ban ordinances, launched South Pasadena Host Town for Special Olympics World Games, helped secure more open space and parks for residents, and sparked public art projects in the City's commercial districts.

Dr. Khubesrian co-founded Connected Cities and Communities (C3). In 2015, the C3 developed and advocated for sustainable and environmentally responsible transportation networks and projects in the San Gabriel Valley. She is a leading voice in the effort to oppose the 710 Tunnel, and an expert in alternative solutions that relieve traffic congestion, connect communities, promote smart growth, and protect the environment.

Dr. Khubesrian is a former faculty member, officer, and Director of Family Practice of Glendale, Inc., a Medical Corporation. She served as Co-Director of a non-profit physician training program at Glendale Adventist Medical Center, where she practiced medicine for 18 years before transitioning to a part-time integrative health practice that addresses environmental and genetic risk factors for the prevention and treatment of disease.

Dr. Khubesrian is a member of Women Involved in South Pasadena Political Action and the National Women's Political Caucus. She and her husband, Dr. Mark Dreskin, have lived in South Pasadena since 1998, have two children, and have served as volunteers with the Girl Scouts, American Youth Soccer Organization, and YMCA organizations.

Dr. Khubesrian holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology with emphasis on Marine Biology from the UCLA School of Life Sciences. She is the recipient of Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, National Golden Key Honor Society, and Regents' Scholar awards from UCLA. She has an M.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Medicine, is a Board Certified Family Physician (American Board of Family Medicine) and a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Dr. Khubesrian is licensed as a Physician and Surgeon by the Medical Board of California.

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Women of the Year 2018

Lynn Bogh Baldi

- Born in Laramie, Wyoming, into a military family, Lynn came to San Bernardino, California in 1961. Attended San Bernardino schools and graduated from Pacific High School. Lynn married while in high school and then began the journey of raising a family.
- She started very early in her marriage working for the family owned construction company learning every aspect of building and development from the ground up. Early success was gained in business and life lessons under the loving guidance of her father-in-law, Shirley H. Bogh.
- In the 1970's, partnering with her husband, they opened their own construction company. The family relocated to Beaumont, California in 1978. Lynn became one of the few women licensed General Contractors in the state. The company focused on commercial construction projects statewide.
- Reinventing herself again, in 1982 Lynn began working for Baldi Bros. Constructors on a 13-month, 16-million-dollar project job site in Cathedral City, California. Lynn has now worked with Baldi Bros. for over 36 years.
- Transitioning to a new phase in life, Lynn married Emanuel Baldi in 1988, and along with her three children gained 10 bonus children, the youngest who has special needs. In 1993, Emanuel suffered two massive strokes at the age of 55 and Lynn became his caregiver until his death in 2004.
- Now semi-retired Lynn continues to serve in community and regional arenas, volunteering her time and focusing on nonprofit work covering many areas of service.

Community and Regional Activities:

- Current Board Chair of the San Gorgonio Memorial Healthcare District, serving the hospital since 2007.
- Currently she is sitting as Chair of the Emeritus Committee for The Community Foundation.
- Since 1980, she serves on the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce Board, currently as Emeritus Director.
- Member of Calimesa, Banning and Yucaipa Chambers of Commerce. Lynn sits on B.E.S.T Foundation Board benefiting Beaumont Unified School District Students and Schools.
- She was also hired as Deputy District Director, Riverside office, by Governor Pete Wilson.
- Lynn was also appointed to Area 12 Disabilities Board, by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

Past affiliations:

- Soroptimist International Banning Beaumont, Past Chair
- Life Member PTA International, Past Local President
- Founding Member Habitat for Humanity San Gorgonio Pass
- Board Member of the Community Foundation, Past Chair
- Board Member for The ARC of Riverside County
- Board Member Crafton College Foundation

Lynn is all about family and is blessed to have 13 children, 30 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren with two more making their debut in 2018. Two of her grandsons are currently serving in the United States Navy, following in the footsteps of their grandfathers and fathers with Military Service.

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COMMITTEES
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RULES
TRANSPORTATION
WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE

Janet Diel

Janet Diel was born in Chicago and moved to California to attend school in San Diego and Hollywood, graduating from Hollywood High School in 1966. Mrs. Diel then attended Los Angeles City College to qualify as an RN, and went on to California State University, Los Angeles, for a BA in Speech and Drama as well as a California lifetime teaching credential for grades K-12.

Janet settled in Burbank in 1978. Her father worked with the National Science Foundation, on research that ultimately led to the creation of the Internet. Her mother was a Peabody and Emmy-award winning actress who owned a children's theater in Hollywood. Her stepmother was a Holocaust survivor, who survived three camps, and was also a noted enamel artist. Janet's father inspired her from an early age to "be a good citizen," and she has lived her life in service to her community, and her family, ever since.

Janet has been married for 36 years to Henry Junior Diel, and has five children; James, Jennifer, Jason, Jocelyn, and Joanna, ranging in age from 30 to 51. Her children, and grandson Andrew, are the pride and joy of her life. All of Janet's children are disabled with complications of Marfan Syndrome, or learning disabilities. Mrs. Diel spent over 30 years in a hospital bed and wheelchair, and the past 15 years using a cane or walker to stay upright and mobile. For her, disabilities make life more complicated, but not impossible. As a result of their disabilities, all of her family expects more, not less, of themselves.

Mrs. Diel's history of community service goes back to her childhood, working with Girl Scouts and other local organizations, and includes marching for civil rights in the 1960s. When her children were growing up, Janet led three Girl Scout troops, and served on the San Fernando Valley Council and the Burbank Service Unit. Janet loved going camping with her Girl Scout troop in her all-terrain wheelchair. She was leader of a Cub Scout pack and den, served on the board for Job's Daughters International, and was a team parent for numerous softball and soccer teams. In the Burbank schools, she served on Site Councils, PTAs, chaired both the parent support groups for GATE and Special Education students, and chaired countless committees for school fundraisers.

Janet has served 25 years on the City of Burbank Transportation Commission, 36 years with the Burbank Tournament of Roses as a decorator, supervisor and city liaison, and 20 years with the Pasadena Tournament of Roses as a member of various committees. She is currently on the Burbank Unified School District (BUSD) School Facility Oversight Committee, and has been a member of the Burbank Advisory Council on Disabilities for 31 years as VP and Barriers Chair, working to create a user-friendly, accessible city. On the Board of Directors of the Burbank Human Relations Council, Janet coordinates Holocaust speakers for BUSD, and is city event chair for the annual Kindertransport Commemoration.

Janet is proud to have volunteered for 32 years with Burbank Coordinating Council as President and Campership Chair, sending over 100 low-income children to a week of resident camp or day-camp each summer, and Holiday Basket Chair, providing food and gifts for more than 550 low-income families annually. She is immensely proud of her family, friends, and colleagues, and considers herself 'addicted' to helping others. Janet loves living in Burbank.

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HIGHER EDUCATION
PRIVACY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION



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Jill Lederer has been the President and CEO of the Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce serving the cities of Thousand Oaks, Westlake Village and Agoura Hills for the last nine years. The Chamber is one of the largest in the western United States and holds the elite 5-Star accreditation rating from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, one of only six chambers in California to have earned the highest ranking. The Chamber also operates the Greater Conejo Valley Community Foundation and the Conejo Valley Tourism Improvement District.

In addition to two consecutive 5-Star accreditations (2011 and 2016) under Jill's leadership, the Greater Conejo Valley Chamber is the recipient of nine consecutive President's Circle awards from Cal Chamber for their excellence in advocacy and helping the business community achieve employment law compliance within California's complex regulatory environment.

Jill was raised in Woodmere, New York and took her first Domino's Pizza order while a sophomore at Ohio Wesleyan University. She later went on to own 10 Domino's Pizza stores in the Conejo and West San Fernando Valley's employing several hundred people at any given time for over 25 years, cashing out in 2008 and becoming CEO of the Chamber three weeks later.

Jill holds an MBA from Pepperdine and the Accredited Chamber Executive (ACE) designation from the Western Association of Chamber Executives. She serves on the Board of Regents for California Lutheran University, Board of Trustees of Los Robles Hospital & Medical Center, Board of the Conejo Las Virgenes Future Foundation, Board of the Western Association of Chamber Executives, and is current President of the Chambers of Commerce Alliance of Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties. She serves on the Steering Committee for the Western Association of Chamber Executives Academy and is a member of the Rotary Club of Thousand Oaks. Jill loves hiking, reading, traveling and animals. She and her husband, Stephen Hicks, live in Thousand Oaks.



Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin

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JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Catherine Curry-Williams channeled the pain of personal tragedy into a cause that continues to improve the lives of thousands of children of all abilities.

A native of Brooklyn, Catherine came to Los Angeles to pursue an acting career. With success on stage and television, she filled time between auditions by volunteering for numerous charities. Along the way, she met Scott Williams and the two were married in 1996, welcoming their son Shane Alexander in March of 1997. The seemingly perfect child, however, was afflicted with Spinal Muscular Atrophy, a genetic disorder that left him essentially paralyzed. Sadly, Shane lost his life a mere 13 days after his birth.

In the year after Shane's death, Catherine felt the need to channel her grief into something that would serve children like Shane, while honoring his memory in some lasting way. While preparing to raise a child with severe disabilities, the Williams' discovered a glaring inequity. At that time, so-called wheelchair-accessible playgrounds largely featured ramps leading to play equipment that kids with disabilities couldn't use. Together with their friend Tiffany Harris, the Williams' founded "Shane's Inspiration." Its mission: To develop universally accessible playgrounds where able-bodied children have the opportunity to meet, play with, and befriend children with disabilities.

In September of 2000, the first Shane's Inspiration playground opened in Griffith Park. The fully accessible, sensory-rich playground features equipment for children of ALL abilities. Its success has led to many more, and today, thanks largely to Shane's Inspiration, Los Angeles is considered our country's "most playable" playground city. This year marks the 20th anniversary of Shane's Inspiration, which currently boasts 69 playgrounds worldwide with many more in development. Shane's Inspiration also provides educational programs that promote compassion, inclusion and kindness.

After years at Shane's Inspiration, Catherine no longer works day-to-day in the office. Instead, she mentors small businesses and burgeoning nonprofits. Her website "Wine, Women & Chocolate" provides a popular sounding board for women's issues.

Additionally, she heads the executive committee of Cedars-Sinai's "Good Beginnings" program, and is currently spearheading an effort to provide independent housing for adults with autism.

"God blessed us with Shane," says Catherine, "And I've been equally blessed by this work. In his short life, our son opened our eyes to a glaring need, thereby improving the lives of children everywhere. Our friends, family and community have done so much to champion our cause. I couldn't be more grateful to them for the success it enjoys today." Catherine, Scott and Shane's younger sister, Grace, live in Valley Village.

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CO-CHAIR: LEGISLATIVE ETHICS

CAUCUSES
LATINO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS
LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS
LEGISLATIVE WOMEN'S CAUCUS

Diana Z. Rodriguez, President of San Bernardino Valley College

As president of San Bernardino Valley College, one of the most historic community colleges in California and a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI), President Rodriguez oversees a highly diverse campus of 14,000 students and 1,200 employees in the heart of Southern California's Inland Empire. A native of Southern California and a first-generation community college student, Diana's background is a close reflection of the social and cultural experiences of a vast majority of the community college students in the region.

Diana is known as a caring and considerate leader, with a track record of improving campus morale, increasing student enrollment, advocating for institutional innovation and professional development, and successfully mobilizing campus-wide support for student success-related initiatives. Throughout her professional career, Diana has been a passionate advocate for under-served student populations, which has given her much success in increasing support programs for students of all backgrounds.

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WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 1 ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

Women of the Year 2018

Juana Mata

Juana Mata immigrated to the U.S at the age of 12 and currently lives in the City of La Puente. She works full-time as a social worker for the Department of Children and Family Services where she provides support, counseling, resources and advocacy to children who have been abused.

In 2009, Juana was diagnosed with lupus, an autoimmune disease along with other chronic conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis. It was then, she realized that this disease was not going away and ignited a light inside of her to learn about lupus and provide the support that other survivors and their families may need. She wanted to share hope and let them know they were not alone.

Juana, co-founded Looms4Lupus, a nonprofit organization that provides resources and awareness to minority families in the San Gabriel Valley affected by lupus. For over seven years, she has been co-facilitating a monthly lupus support group for survivors and their families at the Kaiser Community Outreach Center in Baldwin Park, both in English and Spanish. Looms4Lupus has formed partnerships with other local and international lupus organizations to support and advocate for lupus patients, survivors and their families.

Juana, is part of the Lupus Research Alliance – a Multicultural Outreach Task Force and Advocacy Group that will participate in the National Policy Summit in Washington, DC in March 2018. She has participated in many lupus awareness walks and has raised funds for the Lupus Foundation of America and Lupus International.

She has been a strong voice for the lupus community; where she helps create awareness about the disease and speaks at conferences to encourage others to become advocates for lupus patients' rights, survivors and families. For the past four years, Juana has obtained proclamations for Lupus Awareness Month from the cities of La Puente, Baldwin Park, El Monte, Glendora, West Covina, Covina, Carson, and Coachella Valley.

This past January, she spoke out on patient rights and her story was featured at the California Chronic Care Coalition Stars of Advocacy Gala in Sacramento. Juana's passion for helping others is what fuels her. She is a voice not just to the lupus community but to the community as a whole, because lupus doesn't just affect the person living with lupus, it affects their family and friends.

Juana's ongoing dedication is an example of the impact one person can make in the lives of other members of the community, and that is why I am proud to honor her as the 2018 Woman of the Year for Assembly District 48.

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NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIR: SELECT COMMITTEE ON EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATION

Stella Li

Stella Li is the Senior Vice President of BYD Company Limited and President of BYD Motors Inc. She is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations and long-term strategic planning for BYD's North American and Latin American operations. Under Stella's leadership, BYD has achieved exponential international market growth and became a dominant global force in clean technology and consumer electronics.

BYD Motors Inc. is an American manufacturing company and a wholly owned subsidiary of BYD Company Ltd, a global technology company with over \$15 billion in revenue annually and over 220,000 employees across the globe. BYD was founded in 1995 as a battery manufacturer and advanced consumer electronics company. In 2003, BYD entered the automotive market and began to apply its battery expertise to the challenge of transportation, becoming the largest domestic car manufacturer in China. BYD's unique combination of battery and automotive experience is now revolutionizing every aspect of clean transportation, with a product line of 100% electric buses, trucks, forklifts, passenger vehicles, and monorail systems. BYD's clean energy division also produces energy storage systems, solar panels, and LED lights.

Stella successfully launched BYD's cutting-edge technology products into markets across the globe. In September 1996, Stella joined BYD as a Marketing Manager. She established the first overseas office in Hong Kong in 1997, the European headquarters in Amsterdam in 1999, and the North American headquarters for batteries and consumer electronics in Chicago in 2000. In 2002, she helped develop the partnership between BYD and Motorola, providing the latter with mobile phone batteries and a wide range of components and parts. As the architect of BYD's thriving expansions in the Americas, Stella established the company's North American clean energy and transportation headquarters in Los Angeles in 2011 and its manufacturing hub in 2013 for electric buses, trucks, and energy modules in Los Angeles County.

Stella earned her B.A. in Statistics from Fudan University. She was appointed as Vice President of BYD Company Limited in 2002 and Senior Vice President in 2006. Since 2007, she has focused on BYD's business development throughout California and the United States.

ED CHAU
Assemblymember, 49th District

COMMITTEES
BUDGET
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HIGHER EDUCATION

SUBCOMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 6 ON BUDGET
PROCESS OVERSIGHT AND
PROGRAM EVALUATION



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Karen Stuart

Karen Stuart has represented artists and talent agents as a labor negotiator and strategic planning professional for more than twenty-five years. As Executive Director of the Association of Talent Agents (ATA), she leads over one hundred and forty talent agencies in California, Georgia and New York.

Karen currently serves as a Commissioner and working Delegate on the Commission on Eliminating Sexual Harassment and Advancing Equality in the Workplace, chaired by Anita Hill. She is also developing a unique ATA Sexual Harassment Prevention and Training Session focusing on legal and emotional response for victims and confidants. The program will launch March 20, 2018.

Prior to joining ATA, Karen was the National Executive Assistant Director of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA), serving as lead negotiator for numerous AFTRA radio and television contracts.

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HEALTH
PUBLIC SAFETY
RULES
WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE

Leticia Guevara was born in the Westlake/Rampart area of Los Angeles. The oldest of three children, Leticia prevailed over many challenges throughout her childhood. Due to her parents' economic circumstances, they were constantly out of the house, working to make ends meet. Because of this, Leticia helped raise her siblings. Her parents, having emigrated from Mexico, did not speak English, so Leticia served as their translator when speaking to employers and assisted with filling out medical, school, and other necessary forms. This gave her insight into the challenges working-class immigrants face when they lack support for obtaining essential resources to live with dignity.

Leticia's adolescent years presented a new challenge — as a teenage mother, she experienced backlash from her family, who doubted her future prospects. Instead, she went on to receive a degree in computer programming and vowed to make education a top priority in her children's lives. She also began her professional career with the Laborers' Local 300 union as a cashier.

From the early days of her career, Leticia witnessed the unfair treatment of men and women in construction, which reminded her of the challenges her parents had to overcome. The language barrier and lack of information available to people of color were pervasive and constant. Another form of mistreatment that she endured was the underestimation and discrimination towards women in construction simply because of their gender.

Since then, Leticia has served with Laborers' Local 300 for 19 years. Moreover, she made it her mission to inform, educate, and empower tireless working-class people, communities of color, and women. Leticia's civic engagement is broad-ranging — she has continuously canvassed, rallied, phone-banked, and fundraised for elected officials who support union members' rights and defend marginalized communities. Over the years, she has knocked on thousands of doors. Campaigns are only as strong as their volunteers, and Leticia exemplifies hard work that often goes unnoticed and unrecognized. Assembly District 51 thrives because of her efforts.

Leticia currently resides in El Sereno with her spouse, Rogelio Quintana, and is the mother of three. Her 13-year-old daughter is in middle school and plays basketball. Her middle son is 18, and attending college in the fall, and her oldest son, who is 23, is a structural engineer.

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RETIREMENT, AND SOCIAL SECURITY
COMMUNICATIONS AND CONVEYANCE
HEALTH
JOBS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
THE ECONOMY

JOINT COMMITTEE
VICE CHAIR: JOINT COMMITTEE ON
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Maria Alonso

María Alonso was born in a small village in Michoacán, Mexico where her parents taught her the value of hard work. In search for a better life, María migrated to the United States at an early age.

María has dedicated her life to bettering the health and well-being of others. In response to her family's health challenges, María put upon herself to provide a healthy food outlet to others just like her. María's leadership has grown in concert with Huerta del Valle, an urban farm that gives disadvantaged communities access to fresh fruits and vegetables. As the executive director, María has built a thriving sixty two family urban farm and nonprofit organization.

María resides in the City of Ontario with her husband and three beautiful children. She taught them to have her passion for giving back to the community by always paying it forward.

In 2017, María began advocating alongside key stakeholders to secure the California Transformative Climate Communities Program grant for the City of Ontario. With a strong focus on reducing health disparities faced by residents in the area, María saw the grant funding as a vehicle to address community needs. Her advocacy and leadership was a successful component in granting \$35 million to Ontario. María is a testament to what it means to "place community first."



FREDDIE RODRIGUEZ

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COMMITTEES
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HEALTH
HIGHER EDUCATION
PUBLIC SAFETY
UTILITIES AND ENERGY

SELECT COMMITTEES
CHAIR: COMMUNITY COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY AND GUIDED PATHWAYS FOR STUDENTS

Blair Besten is the Executive Director of the Historic Core Business Improvement District. She was appointed in 2011, and has since been serving the community and raising her son in downtown Los Angeles. Working with Historic Core residents, businesses, and property owners has been a meaningful way to apply her background in real estate project management, community engagement, and policy work.

Blair began working in real estate development and property management in downtown Los Angeles in the late 1990's. She then became the Director of Community Development for an affordable housing developer, where she played a key role in securing the maximum allowable disbursement of \$11.9 million from the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) for a housing project.

Working with developers, who have been vital to the downtown Los Angeles renaissance, and living within the boundaries of Skid Row made it impossible not to acknowledge the crisis of homelessness cycling around her. In 2013, Blair was inspired to begin researching and developing solutions. She began interviewing longtime experts in the field, and by September 2014, crafted the first draft of the "Plan for Hope," which outlined eight possible solutions for addressing the homeless crisis, based on the most common suggestions she heard in her interviews. Many of the suggestions have already been implemented, such as doubling the number of Systemwide Mental Assessment Response Teams (SMART) teams, streamlining communication between the City and County, the hiring of a Citywide Homeless Coordinator, and increased Skid Row cleanings and restroom facilities. She continues to be an advocate for the chronically homeless, working with elected officials on new policies regarding mental health while continuing to promote a safe community for all Historic Core residents, property owners, businesses, and visitors.

In January 2017, the Los Angeles City Council appointed Blair to serve on the Proposition HHH Citizen Oversight Committee, which oversees the disbursement of \$1.2 billion to fund permanent supportive housing for the chronically homeless. She is active in numerous Downtown Los Angeles organizations, including the LA Streetcar Board of Directors, Central City Police Boosters Board of Directors, the Civic Center Redesign Council, and the Pershing Square Renew Board. Blair has received awards such as: the 2013 LAPD Central Area Civilian of the Year, the Certificate of Appreciation from the California Peace Officers Association in 2012, and most recently, was the recipient of the 2017 Emerging Leader Award from Union Rescue Mission.

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COMMITTEES
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VICE CHAIR: ENVIRONMENTAL
SAFETY AND TOXIC MATERIALS
INSURANCE
UTILITIES AND ENERGY

Wendy Doo, Esq.

Attorney Wendy Doo is the founding partner of the Law Offices of Doo and Chong and has over 38 years of experience as a lawyer, including her work at a major insurance defense law firm and she is an experienced litigator and mediator.

Wendy Doo is currently an appointed Traffic Commissioner for the city of San Marino. She is also a Community Advisor for the Republic of China and the Legal Advisor for the Sino-American CPA Association. She organized community meetings with the Sheriff Department. Attorney Doo participated as a community speaker for a joint seminar which the White House organized with the FBI, IRS, and Department of Labor on Identity Fraud. She also participated in an immigration information seminar organized by the White House Regional Advisor and ICE District Director regarding naturalization. She is an active community member having served as President Emeritus and Former Legal Counsel for Los Angeles Chinese American Sheriff Advisory Board, Former Director and Present Legal Counsel for Hong Kong Alumni Schools Federation, Former Board Director for San Gabriel Valley Medical Center. She served as Legal Counsel for host town Hacienda Heights for the Special Olympics.

Wendy Doo is a speaker on Sexual Harassment Prevention training and conducts joint seminars with the Department of Labor, including recent seminars for 120 restaurants on Labor Law Compliance. She is also a speaker on wage and hour matters for organizations including Sing Tao newspapers, Asian Food Trade Association, Taiwan Hotel Motel Association of Southern California, Southern California Auto Association, and Sino-American CPA Association.

Wendy Doo is a certificate recipient for serving as an Arbitrator for the Los Angeles Courts and as a Temporary Judge for the local courts. She also served as an Arbitrator for malpractice claims with Kaiser Permanente Hospital.

Currently, her practice has a concentration in business litigation, employment litigation, real estate, wage and hour disputes, advising on medical malpractice claims and serving as retainer counsel for corporations on general litigation, claims and employee issues.

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COMMITTEES
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GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
UTILITIES AND ENERGY
CHAIR: JOINT COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE
CHANGE POLICIES

Lucy Moreno
56th AD 2018 Woman of the Year

Lucy Moreno was born in Guadalajara Jalisco, Mexico. Lucy and her family immigrated to the United States when she was five years old. She grew up in San Diego, California, raised by her single mom and three siblings. She moved to the Coachella Valley 26 years ago and considers herself a native of the region. She is a single mother of three girls and resides in La Quinta, California. Lucy is also a grandmother of two boys and two girls.

Lucy is the Community Engagement Program Manager for the Department of Government and Community Affairs for Clinicas de Salud del Pueblo. Her focus and passion is community health, healthcare access, health justice, equity, education and prevention. She oversees the program grants for the department and coordinates a staff of twelve health navigators who provide education, enrollment, outreach and community health resources for Imperial and Riverside Counties.

Lucy has worked with the Latino communities for over 25 years. Her experience as a case manager for the Coachella Valley Unified School District allowed her to build trust and a relationship with the migrant population, which gave her a closer look at the health disparities of this demographic.

Her experience in community health includes environmental health education, oral health services and prevention, behavior health, community engagement, health policy, and advocacy. Year to year, Lucy coordinates one of the largest free medical, dental, and vision health fairs in the Coachella Valley – the Oasis Flying Doctors Event. This event has formed relationships and a network of local healthcare and oral health providers, who bring their expertise for uninsured families. Additionally, she was instrumental in starting the League of United Latin American Citizens and Flying Doctors event in Riverside.

Lucy has completed a Nonprofit Management course at University of California, Riverside and is currently taking the Advanced Nonprofit Management course.

Her objective is to continue to play a significant role in improving community health. She strongly believes in the importance of engaging and empowering students and youth into public health by creating opportunities for youth leadership roles and youth development through grassroots community based and youth led activities.

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COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS
ELECTIONS AND REDISTRICTING
INSURANCE
PRIVACY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Chandra Howden

Chandra Howden is a United States Army Veteran, Executive Director of Servants Arms, and an active resident of the City of La Puente.

In 1989, Ms. Howden began service to her country in the United States Army during Desert Storm and later went on to serve in the United States Army Reserve. Following her service, Ms. Howden earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from the DeVry Institute of Technology.

In 2013, Ms. Howden took on her current role as Executive Director of Servant Arms, a nonprofit organization that focuses on meeting the needs of the residents of the City of La Puente and its surrounding communities through a variety of programs such as Feeding the Homeless, Community Block Party, Food Bank, Community Basketball, Free-At-Last Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation, and Bilingual Domestic Violence Counseling.

A dedicated public servant, Ms. Howden is a current board member and past President of the Industry Hills Rotary, a service club dedicated to providing supportive services to the communities of Industry, Hacienda Heights and La Puente. As President, Ms. Howden was instrumental in coordinating the clubs service projects such as the Annual Charity Golf Tournament, Annual School Backpack Project, Annual Thanksgiving Basket Project and the Teacher Mini Grant Program, which provides teachers throughout Hacienda La Puente and Bassett Unified School Districts with special funds to accomplish classroom projects. She also currently serves as the Rotary Interact High School Advisor, where she mentors and trains local students on developing leadership skills.

Most recently, Ms. Howden was appointed to the City of La Puente's Education Commission, where she works to promote positive and harmonious relationships with local school districts on matters relating to education, scholarships, youth activities and safety.

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AGRICULTURE
BUDGET
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
SUBCOMMITTEE
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 5 ON
PUBLIC SAFETY

Assembly California Legislature



REGINALD BYRON JONES-SAWYER, SR.
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIFTY-NINTH DISTRICT

Bobbie Jean Anderson (Woman of the Year 2018)

Never one to shy away from fighting for the community, Bobbie Jean worked alongside Congresswoman Maxine Waters and Councilmember Bernard Parks on redistricting. Bobbie Jean was appointed by Councilman Bernard Parks to the Redistricting Commission in 2012 and diligently fought to preserve assets for the 8th District. As a direct result of her work on the Commission, a lawsuit seeking to reclaim much-needed resources for South Los Angeles is currently in court. It is because of Bobbie Jean's notable work on critical social justice issues that have earned her a place in Los Angeles's activist leaders. And she is not tired yet.

Bobbie Jean's advocacy footprints can be traced to many movements. Whether it is her work as a union leader with SEIU or working on criminal justice concerns on the President Bill Clinton Criminal Justice Task Force and as the longtime chair of the Black Women's Forum Criminal Justice Task Force, Bobbie Jean's impact is undeniable. Her work as a leader in the local and state Democratic Party: she is a fifth term Vice-Chair of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party and was appointed by Congresswoman Waters to serve on the Democratic State Central Committee. She has since been reelected to serve 10 additional terms.

Bobbie Jean is committed to creating vocational training and career-path employment opportunities in California. In 2013, Governor Jerry Brown appointed Bobbie Jean to the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology, where she currently serves as a State Commissioner. With a history of working for the humane treatment of homeless, youth and the victims of police abuse, Bobbie was recently appointed to the City of Los Angeles Human Relations Commission by Mayor Eric Garcetti.

Bobbie Jean has always been passionate about the plight of victims of domestic violence and has served on the board of the Jenesse Center Domestic Violence and Intervention Program, where she has been a volunteer for over 20 years. Retiring after 40 years of service with the County of Los Angeles, 25 years in the Public Defender's Office, where she led several successful pilot programs. Bobbie Jean continues to work on criminal justice, prison reform and many other community advocacy issues. She has become a sought after speaker and panelist on these and other issues.

Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.
REGINALD BYRON JONES-SAWYER, SR.
Assemblymember, 59th District

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COMMITTEES
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JOBS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND THE ECONOMY
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, RETIREMENT, AND SOCIAL SECURITY

SELECT COMMITTEES
CHAIR: VETERAN EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

Josie Gaytan
Assembly District, 60
Woman of the Year

Josephina (Josie) Gaytan has dedicated her life to serving others. She began her career in the 1990's working with at-risk middle schoolers at Jurupa Unified School District. Living in Jurupa Valley, she witnessed first-hand the impact that policy decisions were having in her community. She then went to work at the Center for Community Action & Environmental Justice, where, for 12 years, she trained Promotoras how to create healthier lives for themselves, their families and for their community. Her advocacy work encompassed air quality, water quality, and voter registration in underserved communities. In 2012, Ms. Gaytan brought her considerable talents to Reach Out, where she leads the Healthy Jurupa Valley (HJV) initiative. Through HJV, Ms. Gaytan spearheads several projects that are designed to bring greater health and quality of life to all Jurupa Valley residents, including economic prosperity, access to healthy foods, community connectedness, arts and recreation, and creating safer neighborhoods. HJV is a community-designed and community-led initiative co-sponsored by Reach Out and the City of Jurupa Valley, giving all residents a voice in the city's future. In 2014, Ms. Gaytan was elected to serve on the Jurupa Area Recreation and Parks District and continues to serve to this day. Her strength, leadership, and always-optimistic outlook energize people wherever she goes.

In her personal life, Ms. Gaytan has four adult children, one of whom, in a devastating turn, was lost to gun violence several years ago.

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COMMITTEES
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ACCOUNTABILITY AND
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS,
TOURISM, AND INTERNET MEDIA
BUDGET
TRANSPORTATION
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 2 ON
EDUCATION FINANCE

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www.assembly.ca.gov/medina

Esther Portillo-Gonzales is the daughter of migrants from El Salvador. She was born and raised in the Pico-Union neighborhood within the City of Los Angeles, which is known as the gateway for many migrants from Central America and Mexico. Her family moved to the Inland region in the late 1980's and were part of the mass displacement of residents from Los Angeles that have reshaped the racial and electoral reality of the region. She currently serves as the organizing director for the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice, where she works to improve the Inland region's air quality through community organizing, coalition building, and advocacy.

In 2011, she was the Research Fellow at Race Forward, a think-tank center in New York City and collaborated on the groundbreaking report, "Shattered Families: The Perilous Intersection of the Immigration Enforcement and Child Welfare System". In New York and Texas, she worked with migrants and refugees detained by ICE in the many detention facilities around the country, including children and women held at the infamous Karnes "Family" Detention Center.

In 2014, she founded the Human Rights Alliance for Refugee Children and Families, a volunteer organization that supports the plight of refugees seeking freedom from detention. Her organizing and advocacy alongside refugees has helped women, men and children gain their freedom from immigration prison and return to their communities and families.

Esther believes the power of the pen is also critical for educating the public about the social justice battles that occur every day by and for communities of color. She has written for North American Congress on Latin America and Dialogo: an interdisciplinary journal published by the Center for Latino Research at DePaul University. Her work has also been documented by the Los Angeles Times, The Daily News, Sun Newspaper, Press Enterprise, La Opinion, La Prensa, BBC, NBC, KMEX, Univision, KPFK, WBAI, CNN Español, and Democracy Now.

Esther's social justice and human rights work has also been recognized by the Petra Foundation and the Inland Region's Latino Network. She has worked on campaigns to eliminate perchlorate contamination from drinking water, has led electoral campaigns to increase voter turnout in low-income communities of color and stood strong with warehouse workers seeking better working conditions in both Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

She currently resides in Riverside with her husband and two children and feels blessed to have them by her side as she continues her commitment for social change.

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ACCOUNTABILITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE
REVIEW
BANKING AND FINANCE
HEALTH
UTILITIES AND ENERGY
SELECT COMMITTEE
CHAIR: CAREER TECHNICAL
EDUCATION AND BUILDING A 21ST
CENTURY WORKFORCE

A lifelong Democrat and community activist, Ms. Lucks is currently in her second term as a Democratic Delegate in Assembly District 62.

Ms. Lucks served on the Venice Neighborhood Council for 10 years including two terms as president.

In 2006, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa appointed Ms. Lucks to the City's Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, the regulatory body for the 95 Neighborhood Councils where she served as president, retiring on January 1, 2014. Ms. Lucks has also served as a public member on several California state boards appointed by Governor Gray Davis, Senate Pro-Tem John Burton and Assembly Speaker Willie Brown (Medical, Psychology, and Dental), The Health Professional Education Foundation and Legal Trust Fund Commissions and was the first woman President of the Los Angeles County Beach Commission appointed by Supervisors Edelman and Yaroslavsky.

Ms. Lucks currently works for the nonprofit, Venice Community Housing, developer, owner, operator of 15 properties providing permanent housing and supportive services to over 520 low income people in Venice, Del Rey and Mar Vista. She is a founder of the annual Venice Design Series benefiting Venice Community Housing.

Ms. Lucks received a "Spirit of Venice" award in 1998 and a "Women Leaders" award presented by the National Women's Political Caucus, Westside in 2008.

Along the way, she hosted and produced "Alternatives" a radio show on KCRW from 1978-1980, was manager of public relations for the 1984 Olympic Torch Relay, and served campaign fundraiser for Senators Alan Cranston and served as a deputy to Los Angeles Councilmember Ruth Galanter.

Reading and dancing are her favorite activities when not visiting her two children, seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.



Mary Ransom

President/Founder – District African American Advisory Parent Council

Mary Ransom has lived in Lynwood for 46 years. She is a single mother of 4 children, a grandmother of 6, and great-grandmother of 4. All her 4 children attended Lynwood Unified Schools; 3 of her grandchildren attended Lynwood schools and 1 of her great grandchildren is currently attending a school in Lynwood. She has been an active leader at Lynwood Unified School District for 30 years. She has served as President of School Site Council (SSC); Vice President of the District Advisory Council (DAC); and Representative of the Lynwood Visual and Performing Arts Committee (VAPA). On any given week, you can spot Mary Ransom attending Parent Workshops, Lynwood School Board Meetings, and school events recruiting and informing parents on upcoming events. She is a one-woman machine operation. In 2002, Mary Ransom began her own Parent Organization that provides resources and support to the African American student population in Lynwood called District African American Advisory Parent Council (DAAAPC). For 13 years, she has fundraised and held events focused on student enrichment and empowerment programs. She has brought together parents, teachers and administrators to work together to provide student opportunities. What has resulted has been a series of Annual events that have impacted the student and parent body in Lynwood in a positive way for over 13 years now:

TEEN SUMMIT

- More than 300+ Lynwood teens participate in the day-long activities of the summit, which include motivational speakers. The Teen Summit promotes rebuilding writing skills for preparation of the upcoming Common Core State Standards (CCSS) testing in the spring. In conjunction with the Teen Summit, the District African American Advisory Parent Council (DAAAPC) added parent workshops to empower and inspire parents to become advocates for their children. In Mary's own words: "The Teen Summit is all about creating opportunities for our students. I am so proud of our students and of the District African American Advisory Parent Council (DAAAPC). We are here to support them and provide every chance for them to succeed in their dreams and goals. That is why we are providing something new this year – parent workshops – so that we can also support other parents as they provide guidance for their children."

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY

- Students receive medals and scholarships ranging from \$25 to \$600. More than 100 K-12 students received nearly \$10,000 in scholarships. African American students from all 18 Lynwood Unified schools are honored for their hard work and dedication to academics with medals, scholarships ranging from \$25 to \$600 depending on grade level, and prizes, such as graphic calculators, electronic phonetic spelling devices or drawing Magic Boards. In her own words: "This event gives all students an opportunity to be proud of themselves and to know they are special. By identifying and rewarding students who might not always receive this kind of recognition, it motivates them and other students to continue trying their hardest and achieving their best."

Along with these successful events, Mary Ransom provides leadership opportunities for parents to learn the skills to facilitate, organize, and eventually implement an event of their own. According to Ransom, the idea is to empower others. She also hosts monthly meetings that update students and parents on LUSD policy and upcoming events. In 2017, Mary Ransom turned her Parent Organization – DAAAPC - into a non-profit 501c3. She has helped out thousands of students in Lynwood throughout her involvement. So much so, Mary Ransom is constantly approached by students she has helped along the way; she is referred to as MAMA.

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SELECT COMMITTEES

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
FOSTER CARE
NON-PROFIT SECTOR
PORTS AND GOODS MOVEMENT
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS

Ramona Pimentel

2018 Woman of the Year Recipient – 64th Assembly District

Ramona Pimentel is the 2018 Woman of the Year for the 64th Assembly District and a 40 year resident of the city of Carson. Her parents fell in love during World War II after her father immigrated from Mexico to work for the railroads. She attended local schools from kindergarten on and graduated from Banning High School. Ramona married her high school sweetheart and purchased a home in Carson where they currently reside, raising their children.

Volunteering is nothing new to Ramona. Throughout the last three decades, she has worked selflessly to lend a helping hand wherever needed, including, a Carson shelter for battered women and their children, the Carson Boys & Girls Club, and the local YMCA. Through her coordination of an annual Thanksgiving Turkey Distribution Program, she has helped feed hundreds of needy families in Carson during the holidays. Professionally, she has worked in Carson for 26 years where she is currently the owner of her own small business. Ramona is also a member of the Carson Chamber of Commerce.

Thinking outside the box, Ramona continues to bring her community together for family fun days at the annual Classic Car Show. The purpose is to raise funds to provide Christmas gifts for Carson's children so that no child goes without some holiday cheer. Her effort to coordinate that event allows her to shop for and provide gifts for over 1,000 elementary school children. The principal of one of the elementary schools was so touched that she stated, "no one ever reaches out to our school, but Ramona did and she made a difference in those children's Christmas." One of Ramona's favorite things to do is crocheting. When she learned the American Heart Association was in dire need of beanies for newborns, she went to work crocheting. Caring for others is second nature for Ramona. She has shown this same compassion and love for both of her parents through their ailing years. If she knows people are in need, she will find a way to help and do so without expectation of something in return. Ramona is one of the silent angels of Carson, a woman who seeks no praise for her good deeds which is exactly why she is so excited to be recognized as the 2018 Woman of the Year for the 64th Assembly District.

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DEVELOPMENT, AND THE
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ACCOUNTABILITY AND
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW
HEALTH
HIGHER EDUCATION
VETERANS AFFAIRS

Jo-Anne Prophete Matsuba

Jo-Anne Prophete Matsuba is a St. Louis native of Haitian descent. Jo-Anne and her husband, Howard, began their lives together when Jo-Anne was working as a critical care RN, and Howard was in his medical residency. They have lived in Fullerton for the past 25 years and raised their two daughters, Stephanie and Michelle, through elementary school at St. Juliana Falconieri and Rosary High School. Last year, Jo-Anne completed three years as a member of the St. Juliana Consultative School Board and is a longtime member of the St. Juliana Choir.

Jo-Anne has been very involved in the local community. She recently was on the fundraising team of Higher Ground, an organization that provides mentoring programs for youth and their families in at-risk communities in Anaheim and surrounding areas. She was an active member of the Fullerton Chapter of National Charity League for 11 years and, among other offices, she served as President. She remains connected to the group and the philanthropies it serves as a Sustaining Member. She has also served as a committee member for “Walk Among the Stars”, raising funds to support cancer patients at St. Jude Hospital Crosson Cancer Institute.

In 2017, Jo-Anne supported the homeless in her community by dancing, and taking 1st place, in “Look Who’s Dancing”, a fundraiser for Pathways of Hope, an organization dedicated to rebuilding lives of the hungry and homeless. With members of the Knights of Columbus, through her church, she helps to serve meals and provide shelter to the homeless at the Fullerton Armory. For several years, she has co-chaired a dinner and silent auction to benefit “Get On The Bus”, an organization that takes children to see their incarcerated parents on Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. As a licensed Zumba instructor, Jo-Anne also volunteers her time teaching Zumba classes to teens at Crittenton Services for Children and Families, as well as serving as an active participant with the Crittenton Cookie Couples. She is a former Fullerton YMCA Board Member and was honored as their Volunteer of the Year.

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COMMITTEES
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APPROPRIATIONS
NATURAL RESOURCES
UTILITIES & ENERGY
VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mayor Amy Howorth has served the residents in Manhattan Beach for over 15 years, including two terms on the Manhattan Beach School Board. She is in her second term on the City Council. She has served on the Los Angeles County Commission on Children and Families and is a Director of the Clean Power Alliance of Southern California.

Amy is passionate about preserving the environment and was a member of the City's Inaugural Environmental Task Force. In 2014, while Mayor she successfully championed a city-wide ban on smoking. Mayor Howorth was also a major proponent of the both the newly completed Manhattan Beach Skate Park, and the county library in Manhattan Beach.

As a school board member for eight years, she championed increased access for young women to the sciences, inclusivity for all students, and transforming aging facilities through the passing of a \$67 million bond that resulted in new buildings and classrooms for students.

Amy's community service work includes serving on the Board of the Beach Cities Friends of Habitat for Humanity (and as the MC for their annual fundraiser), a founding member of the Friendship Circle South Bay (a foundation that empowers individuals with developmental disabilities to build friendship and independence), and Amigos Unidos, (a mother and son community service organization). She is also a founding member of South Bay Cares, a socially-minded non-profit dedicated to advocating for human, environmental, and constitutional rights through community action. A lifelong Girl Scout, she frequently speaks with local Girl Scouts about empowerment. She calls her speech, "It's not about the cookie; learning to ask for what you want," with the hopes of empowering the youngest women to start speaking up.

As a social justice advocate, she is very proud to have been featured speaking out against hate and prejudice in the film "Not In Our Town, Manhattan Beach," which dealt with a suspected hate crime in Manhattan Beach.

Before her political career, Amy was a professional photo editor for over a decade and is proud that she was the original Photo Editor for Wired Magazine.

Her issues and passions have evolved to include technology, education, the environment, transportation, film, social justice, and young women's empowerment.

Amy was born and raised in the small town of Coshocton, Ohio and attended public high school there before graduating from Ohio University. She currently lives in Manhattan Beach with her husband Mark and their two sons (when home from college). Her family is a member of Congregation Tifereth Jacob.

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COMMITTEES
BUDGET
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
NATURAL RESOURCES
REVENUE AND TAXATION

SUBCOMMITTEES
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 5
ON PUBLIC SAFETY



Assemblywoman Melissa Melendez's 2018 Woman of the Year: Tamara Colosimo

Tamara ‘Tami’ Colosimo is a Southern California native.

In 2000, Tami joined the United States Army Reserve where she began serving her country in the U.S. Army Military Police. She has served with honor and distinction for over 17 years with three tours of duty, including two deployments to Iraq. Tami is the recipient of numerous awards including four Army Achievement Medals and three Army Commendation Medals.

Tami’s military career has spanned over three different United States Presidents, earning her the current ranking of Staff Sergeant.

She’s currently assigned to the 349th Combat Support Hospital in Bell, California. Tami has also served in the 314th Military Police Company in Irvine, 812th Military Police Company in Orangeburg, New York, 325th Combat Support Hospital in Independence, Missouri, and 603rd Military Police Company in Belton, Missouri.

While continuing to serve in the Army Reserve, Tami decided to go back to school. In 2014, Tami graduated with a Bachelors Degree of Nursing from University of Phoenix with Sigma Theta Tau Honors.

Beyond her military service, Tami also donates her time to her wounded colleagues and her community. While serving in Missouri, Tami generously volunteered her time at both the Veteran Affairs Hospital and the Children’s Hospital in Kansas City. She has also served as a “Big Sister” in the Big Sister, Big Brother program.

Outside of the military, Tami works as an emergency room nurse at the Riverside University Health System and Loma Linda Medical Center. She has been an emergency room Registered Nurse since 2011.

Tami is mother to a beautiful four year old daughter named Addison.

On the night of October 1, 2017, Tami’s extensive military and medical experience was desperately needed as she found herself in the middle of the Las Vegas shooting. She applied CPR, wrapped tourniquets, applied pressure to wounds, inserted IVs and sadly tended to the families of the deceased. Tami tended to the wounded through the night until early the next morning, saving countless lives in the process.

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COMMITTEES
VICE CHAIR: HUMAN SERVICES
BANKING AND FINANCE
BUDGET
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE
SUBCOMMITTEE
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #4 ON
STATE ADMINISTRATION

Arianna Barrios is the owner of Communications LAB with more than 20 years of experience in marketing and communications, boasting a wide-ranging career in education, government relations, nonprofit and for-profit organizations. As the owner of a growing small business, Barrios employs 11 communications professionals in the city of Orange with satellite offices in South Orange County and San Bernardino.

Communications LAB is a certified DBE, SBE and, WMBE in the state of California and the small agency has won numerous awards for its public outreach and marketing programs. In 2017, it was a finalist for the Orange County Business Journal's Family Owned Business Awards. As passionate advocate for small business, Barrios often testifies on behalf of the Small Business Development Centers (SBDC).

Long-time residents of Orange County, Barrios' family has a storied history that began with her grandfather, Cruz Barrios, who owned the ubiquitous Barrios Market in Santa Ana, a hub for the local Latino community. Cruz was a founding member of Orange County's first chapter of LULAC, where his granddaughter is a member today, and played a crucial role in helping local Latino families build their historic legal case, Mendez v. Westminster in the late 1940's. The precedent setting case ended so-called "Mexican" schools in Orange County and school segregation across the state of California. Continuing the family commitment to education, her father served as the first Latino elected to the Orange Unified School District in the late 1980's.

Fueled by a powerful family legacy and strong belief in giving back, Barrios also finds numerous ways in which to mentor students and aspiring public servants including volunteering for the Hispanic Heritage Foundation's LOFT Latina Leadership Academy, the Marian Bergeson Excellence in Public Service Series, California Women's Leadership Association (CWLA), and California Women Lead.

Barrios serves on several boards of directors including the Orange Chamber of Commerce, YWCA of Central Orange County, Orange Educational Foundation, Pitcher Park Community Foundation and, the Community Foundation of Orange where she has chaired the Annual Fundraising Gala for the past five years raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for the greater Orange community on programs for veterans, at-risk youth, education programs and more. Most weekends she and her husband, Brian Lochrie, can be found volunteering at community events.

Barrios is also the elected representative for Trustee Area 5 of the Rancho Santiago Community College District where she has served as Clerk, Vice President and President of the Board of Trustees.

She lives in Orange with her husband Brian, her two sons, Joey (20) and Max (18) and her parents Russ and Pat Barrios.

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COMMITTEES
CHAIR: INSURANCE
TRANSPORTATION
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
VETERANS AFFAIRS



Woman of the Year 2018

Maria Orozco Lopez

Detective Corporal Maria Orozco Lopez grew up in the city of Santa Ana. She attended local schools and graduated from Century High School. She went on to San Francisco State University and Chico State University, earning a bachelor degree in criminal justice.

In 2008, Detective Corporal Orozco Lopez was hired by the Santa Ana Police Department. Since then she has worked Patrol, Civic Center Patrol, and as a detective in the Special Crimes Section where she specialized in domestic violence and child abuse investigations.

In 2016, she was promoted to the rank of Corporal where she served as a Field Training Officer in Patrol and is currently assigned to the Special Crimes Section – Sexual Assault Unit. She supervises three detectives and three civilian investigators, as well as carrying her own caseload. Detective Corporal Orozco Lopez also manages the Human Options grant, supervising a domestic violence advocate they have assigned to her unit.

Detective Corporal Orozco Lopez is a diligent employee who is highly dedicated to the police department. In addition to the great work she does at her duty assignment, she teaches a block of instruction at the New Officer Orientation program and is an Advisor for the department's Explorer Post. She also runs on the department's Baker to Vegas running team and participates on the women's football team, which raises money for ill/injured police officers across Orange County. A lifelong basketball enthusiast, she volunteers with Century High School's basketball team. Detective Corporal Orozco Lopez is a valuable asset to the Santa Ana Police Department and the community she serves.

Tom Daly
Assembly Member, 69th District

COMMITTEES
CHAIR: EDUCATION
BUDGET
COMMUNICATIONS AND CONVEYANCE
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, RETIREMENT AND
SOCIAL SECURITY
TRANSPORTATION
SUBCOMMITTEES
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 2 ON
EDUCATION FINANCE
SELECT COMMITTEE
CHAIR: PORTS AND GOODS MOVEMENT



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2018 Woman of the Year - Michele Grubbs

Michele Grubbs is the Vice President of Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA). PMSA is a not-for-profit association focused on global trade representing owners and operators of marine terminals, ocean terminals, fuel providers, tug companies, steamship agents, railroads and other trade associations. Ms. Grubbs is well known and respected throughout the international trade community in Southern California. Michele has worked for PMSA since 2004, directing the association's Southern California operations.

Michele's tireless work ethic, honesty, courage and integrity are just a few reasons why all elements of the Southern California supply chain, which includes marine terminal operators, ocean carriers, cargo owners, customs brokers, trucking companies, railroad officials, labor unions and government officials, seek her advice and assistance.

While at PMSA, Michele has testified countless times before both the ports and city councils of Los Angeles and Long Beach on topics related to the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. She has also testified before the Federal Maritime Commission and at numerous state and congressional proceedings including the California State Lands Commission and California Coastal Commission. She also represented PMSA on the Port of Los Angeles "No Net Increase Task Force" which led to the ground breaking Clean Air Action Plan and served on the Los Angeles Mayor's Task Force on Goods Movement.

In addition to her responsibilities with PMSA, Michele currently serves on the Marine Exchange of Southern California Board of Directors - a ninety plus year old, non-profit organization dedicated to the development, safe and efficient flow of maritime commerce throughout the region, is a board member of the Center for International Trade and Transportation (CITT) at California State University at Long Beach, and is a member of the Port of Long Beach Women in International Trade Committee - which hosts an annual luncheon of over 100 professional women in trade and students from the five high schools in Long Beach as part of an effort to provide mentoring and networking for high school students.

Michele also serves on the Board of Directors of the PMSA Foundation, which provides financial and in-kind support to educational, charitable, environmental and non-profit programs that benefit California and Washington State port communities and promote awareness of the maritime industry.

Michele and her husband Jim Grubbs have three children. She continues to be active in a variety of activities for her children's school.

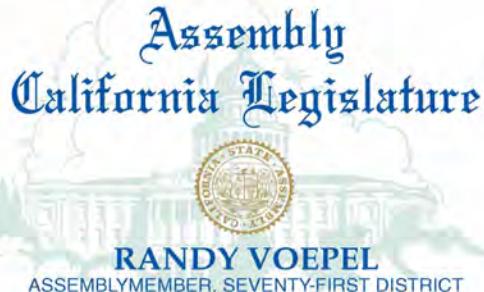
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BUDGET
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VETERANS AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 2 ON
EDUCATION FINANCE



Dana Stevens

Dana has dedicated her adult life to the service of community, from Girl Scout leader and Little League volunteer, to PTA and neighborhood improvement projects. As a single parent raising three children in East County, she knew that being an engaged parent could make a difference for her kids and for other neighborhood youth. To better provide for her family, Dana returned to college and graduated from UCSD with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Urban Studies and Planning. She has spent more than 20 years advocating for communities that put children and families first.

Community Action Service and Advocacy (CASA) believes that poverty, social isolation, access to quality educational and employment opportunities are key factors in raising young people who contribute to society and embrace sobriety. In short *place matters*. And that is why CASA strives to engage residents – young and old – the voiceless and the influencers – as advocates to safe and healthy neighborhoods. CASA has called El Cajon “home” for 30 years.

As Director of CASA, Dana has been able to inspire and motivate a new generation of community leaders through CASA’s internship program known as STAAND, Students Together Against Alcohol and Drugs. Under Dana’s leadership, CASA has worked with law enforcement, business leaders, the faith community, refugees and educators to change community conditions. She has lead successful initiatives to prevent the sale of alcohol, tobacco and marijuana to youth; to prevent neighborhood blight associated with overconcentration of alcohol outlets that sell to serial inebriates and kids; to maintain public parks as valuable neighborhood assets by making them drug free, defeating a proposal to extend the hours for alcohol sales until 4:00 am; and to support local control over the role of marijuana in our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Voepel", is placed over a white rectangular background. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "R" at the beginning.

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COMMITTEES
VICE CHAIR: BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS
VICE CHAIR: REVENUE AND TAXATION APPROPRIATIONS
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, RETIREMENT, AND SOCIAL SECURITY RULES

Jeanne Tumanjan is an administrator for Tumanjan Homes Corporation, a family owned development company in California since 1977. Ms. Tumanjan has also been an event planner for over 30 years and has devoted the last 14 years to fundraising for non-profits and numerous charitable causes.

Jeanne was a licensed Acupuncturist for 23 years. In addition to having a thriving practice, she served on numerous boards, within her field, and was appointed by Governor Pete Wilson to the Medical Board of California - Acupuncture.

Jeanne's father was a WWII veteran and POW, a successful business owner and a well-known philanthropist. About 14 years ago, following her nephew's deployment to Iraq, she made the decision to "pay it forward" by following in her father's footsteps in philanthropy. She has focused her interests on Veteran organizations and their challenges, both overseas and upon their return home. Jeanne has been fortunate enough to support many organizations such as the Gary Sinise Foundation, The Medal of Honor Foundation, Commerce Industrial Council, Holy Cross Armenian Apostolic Cathedral, Armenia Tree Project, Harbor Interfaith and volunteers and supports the Semper Fi Fund and the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team (WWAST). She joined the WWAST Board of Directors in 2017. Jeanne who served on the Board of Directors for The Commerce Casino and Hotel worked with the casino who generously hosted a very successful Fundraising Gala and several Combat Poker Tournaments supporting WWAST.

Jeanne has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Communications and Marketing from Pepperdine University and is a 30-year resident of Dana Point.

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Tina Anderson is currently the President of the 2/11 Marine Adoption Committee in Irvine and has served with the committee since its inception in 2007. This dedication to a cause was modeled in Tina's life at an early age. Growing up the youngest of five children in Miami, Tina witnessed her single mother open her home to anyone in need. Upon the family moving to Pennsylvania when she was nine, two of Tina's brothers joined the military, selflessly devoting their lives to this great country.

During Tina's youth and young adult life, she continued the trend of dedicating herself to the service of others. From babysitting at a very young age, to volunteering at a child development center in high school; working as a nanny for military families; working in the Media Center of an underprivileged elementary school in south Georgia; volunteering as a PTA President; running school book fairs; chaperoning school trips; leading and hosting a multi-state high school band competition; serving as Band Booster President and Secretary and then as President in numerous non-profit women's organizations; Tina has a storied history of serving others.

Following high school, Tina moved to California. It was during this time she met her husband, Gary, a Marine. Marriage and a son named Jesse, who was born at Camp Pendleton, came soon after. As life would have it, Jesse grew up and joined the United States Air Force. In 2010, when Haiti was ravaged by a devastating earthquake, Jesse was sent to serve the injured as a medic. It was there that he met his future wife, Christina. Five years later, Tina was blessed to become a grandmother to her beautiful grandson, Braeden.

Tina's personal passions from a young age have always involved dancing, sports and photography. She has continued dancing into her adult life, even performing for a few years as a semi-professional salsa dancer. Her photography has come in extremely handy as she documents all the organization events she volunteers with.

Living in five different states and traveling to Europe and Australia, Tina's life has been enhanced by many cultures and friends. In her last move to California 13 years ago, Tina sought to find meaningful activities to dedicate her time and the Irvine 2/11 Marine Adoption Committee was a perfect fit. As the city of Irvine adopted the 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines stationed at Camp Pendleton, Tina was able to work with the organization from its beginning stages, even helping to name it. She decided to dedicate herself in service to those that serve our country, showing them how much they are appreciated for their sacrifices. Tina has spent much time over the years speaking with area leaders, businesses and individuals on how they can get involved. She is so very proud of all that has been accomplished by the committee in her ten years, including pre-deployment parties for the entire 2/11 Battalion and their families, baby gifts for new Marine parents, thousands of welcome home bags and handwritten cards for the single Marines returning from overseas deployment, full Thanksgiving meals for the families, tens of thousands of toys donated for the holidays, Trunk or Treat parties for the 11th Marine Regiment during Halloween, car washes, fundraisers which sponsor the annual 2/11 Marine Corps Birthday Ball, the annual Holiday Party hosted for the entire 2nd Battalion, 11th Marine Battalion and their families which includes a full meal, gifts, raffles, photography, giveaways, games, crafts, and more.

Assemblyman Matthew Harper is proud to honor Tina Anderson as the 2018 Woman of the Year for the 74th Assembly District!

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COMMITTEES
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VICE CHAIR: ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT,
SPORTS, TOURISM, AND INTERNET MEDIA
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
HEALTH
RULES

CATALINA R. CHACON: Councilwoman for Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians

Councilwoman Catalina Chacon has been elected by the Pechanga people to serve since 2006. Catalina was instrumental in the implementation of a new Tribal Identification that has been recognized by the federal government.

Catalina has helped raise more than \$500,000 for Susan G. Komen Inland Empire. A guiding principle for Catalina is the importance of community and working together. A single mother of four, Catalina resides in Temecula.

Catalina's passion for native youth and interest in the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) led her to become a court expert on ICWA. In this capacity, she strives to keep American Indian children with American Indian families. Catalina also serves as a board member on the California Tribal Families Coalition (CTFC) whose mission is to promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of tribal children and families.

In 2016 Catalina was elected by fellow tribal leaders as Secretary of the Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations (TASIN), a leading voice for the rights of California Indian tribes.

As the daughter of a survivor, Catalina has been a driving force behind Pechanga's contributions to the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. Pechanga has raised more than \$500,000 for Susan G. Komen Inland Empire in recent years.

As a Member of the Tribal Council, Catalina played an instrumental role in Pechanga's \$300 million expansion to the Pechanga Resort, which will create another 700 good paying and permanent jobs. The project had an overall economic impact of \$550 million and created more than 3,000 construction-related jobs, according to Beacon Economics.

A guiding principle for Catalina is the importance of community and working together. She often quotes Deepak Chopra in saying, "success comes when people act together; failure tends to happen alone." Pechanga's success is directly attributable to the principle of community and coming together as a tribe to overcome hardships, preserve its heritage, and achieve self-sufficiency.

As a single mother of four, Catalina raised her children with an emphasis on education. She lives in Temecula and enjoys spending time with her children and grandchildren.

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COMMITTEES
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VICE CHAIR: UTILITIES AND ENERGY
BUDGET
HIGHER EDUCATION
VETERANS AFFAIRS
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 2 ON
EDUCATION FINANCE

March 12, 2018

Robbie Calderon-Hass is the broker and owner of Hass Team Realty in Oceanside, California. She has been a realtor in North San Diego County for the past 19 years.

Robbie's passion to give back to her community keeps her busy. She serves on several nonprofit boards- including Boys & Girls Club of Oceanside. Oceanside Promise, Moonlight Cultural foundations, National association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals and is a board member and member for North County African American Women Association. Robbie is also a member of Soroptimist International Oceanside-Carlsbad. She has also served as a volunteer and committee member for various nonprofit fundraising events.

Robbie has been a recipient of North County Philanthropy Council Volunteer of the Year (2010, 2014); Star Award, Moonlight Cultural Foundation; San Diego Area council board Award, Boys and Girls Club of America; Community Partnership Award, Boys & Girls Club of Oceanside, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Woman of the Year, NAACP Woman of Distinction, Volunteer Appreciation Award, North San Diego County Association Realtor and Founders Award, NCAAWA.

Robbie and her husband Keith reside in Oceanside. She is the mother of Angela Calderon and the proud grandmother of Storm, Faith and Dakota.

Rocky J. Chavez

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HUMAN SERVICES
JUDICIARY
COMMUNICATION AND CONVEYANCE

Assembly California Legislature



BRIAN MAIENSCHEIN
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

Cheryl Shaw is a lifelong San Diegan, currently living in Scripps Ranch with her husband Mike. They have two children and five grandchildren who live nearby. At age 21, she earned her Real Estate Broker's license and built a successful career in the escrow industry. In 1998, she started Summit Escrow and Associates Realty Escrow, where she managed the Rancho Bernardo office and oversaw the six additional branches that were to follow. After becoming West Coast Escrow, Cheryl served as regional manager of 14 branches in San Diego and Riverside Counties until her retirement in 2006.

Cheryl's Scripps Ranch home burned to the ground in the 2003 Cedar Fire. Two days later, realizing she had no HOA to help organize the rebuild, she walked up and down her street collecting names and email addresses of those neighbors who had also lost their homes. That small group of neighbors became the seed for the NoPo group ("North of Pomerado Road") - neighbors determined to regroup and recover from the fires. Together, members of this group helped each other through the process of rebuilding their homes and their community.

While rebuilding, Cheryl joined the Burnout Sisters, a group of Scripps Ranch women who were also supporting and guiding one another through the rebuilding process. When the 2007 Witch Creek Fire burned through Rancho Bernardo, this group helped the newest fire survivors navigate the insurance and rebuilding process. Cheryl also started two bunko groups, one for NoPo and one for the Burnout Sisters, helping the fire survivors remain close to this day.

In 2010, Cheryl became chair of the Scripps Ranch Civic Association Neighborhood Watch, a "virtual" Neighborhood Watch program. Mentored by the Scripps Ranch Civic Association President, Cheryl still leads the group today, which has grown to 2,700 email subscribers. It is San Diego County's largest and best Neighborhood Watch program and a model recommended by the San Diego Police Department.

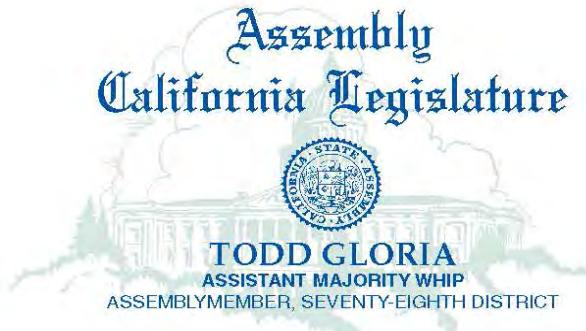
Cheryl has organized a National Night Out for the community of Scripps Ranch for the past seven years. Held annually on the 1st Tuesday in August, it is a block party like no other. National Night Out provides neighbors a chance to get together and socialize, strengthening community bonds. Participating homes are often visited by members of the police and fire departments, local politicians, and committee members.

When she is not spending time with her grandchildren, Cheryl enjoys playing golf, mahjong, and the ukulele, as well as volunteering at her church and reading.

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COMMITTEES
AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE
EDUCATION
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
VETERANS AFFAIRS
WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE

Diane Takvorian

Diane Takvorian has been a leader in the struggle for social and environmental justice for over 30 years. She is Executive Director and co-founder of Environmental Health Coalition (EHC), an environmental justice organization based in the San Diego/Tijuana region. Founded in 1980, EHC is dedicated to achieving environmental and social justice. Operating under a core belief that justice is accomplished by empowered communities acting together to make social change, EHC organizes and advocates to protect public health and the environment threatened by toxic pollution. EHC supports broad efforts that create a just society and fosters a healthy and sustainable quality of life.

EHC's community organizing and policy advocacy work with disenfranchised communities have eliminated many health risks and enabled thousands of residents to develop into community leaders.

Diane has served on international, national, state, and regional advisory boards. In 2009, President Obama appointed her to the Joint Public Advisory Committee for the Commission for Environmental Cooperation. In 2008 she received the James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award for her "creative and inspirational leadership benefiting the people of California." Takvorian is also a cofounder of the California Environmental Justice Alliance. In 2016, she was appointed by then-Assembly Speaker Toni G. Atkins to serve on the California Air Resources Board.

Diane holds a Master's degree in Social Work with an emphasis on public policy and community organizing.

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BANKING AND FINANCE
BUDGET
EDUCATION
ELECTIONS AND REDISTRICTING
HIGHER EDUCATION

SUBCOMMITTEES
CHAIR: BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 5
ON PUBLIC SAFETY
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 6 ON
BUDGET PROCESS OVERSIGHT AND
PROGRAM EVALUATION

SELECT COMMITTEE
CHAIR: CAMPUS CLIMATE

79th District Woman of the Year

Debra I. Maxie

Mrs. Debra I. Maxie is a graduate of Lincoln University of Missouri where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Physical Education, a minor in Psychology and a Master's degree in Guidance and Counseling. She earned her Administrative Credential from San Diego State University.

Debra began her teaching career in 1973 in the Chicago Public School system teaching physical education before moving into the field of counseling. In 1979, Mrs. Maxie relocated to San Diego and joined the teaching force of the San Diego Unified School District. After teaching in various elementary and middle schools as a PE teacher and swimming instructor, Debra accepted a position at one of California's most diverse inner city high schools in 1991. For 20 years, Debra served as a campus site counselor before being promoted to Vice Principal in 2012.

During her tenure, beyond her assigned responsibilities, she served as senior class advisor twice, evening program counselor for credit recovery for 15 years and summer school counselor for 12 years. While she assisted all of the students at the school, Debra's passion has always leaned towards the success of African and African American students.

In 2006, Debra founded a club on campus designed to recapture, encourage and enlighten students who had been 'written off', titled "The Diamonds in the Rough." This club allowed her to step outside the role as academic counselor and work with some of the most academic and behavior challenged students. Debra placed the students in activities on campus, around the city of San Diego, across the state and even South Africa! Debra had a fulfilling career in education for 44 years including working every summer. Mrs. Debra Maxie retired in June of 2017.

When she is not working, Debra enjoys working 1,000 piece jigsaw puzzles, reading, swimming, traveling and making cultural dolls which she calls "Recycled with Flair." Debra is an active member of Association of African American Educators, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. and the Black Women's Institute for Leadership and Development. She currently serves on the California Student Aid Commission. Debra is married to husband Leo Maxie. Combined they have seven adult children and six grandchildren.

She often states: "I made it my lifelong passion to assist others get an education in whatever field they desire. I trust that the commitment, dedication and love I have given to the students and families I had the pleasure of working with, has made a difference in their lives. It is said that we all serve a purpose...I guess this has been mine!"

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LORENA GONZALEZ FLETCHER
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, EIGHTIETH DISTRICT

ALEJANDRA SOTELO-SOLIS 2018 Woman of the Year – 80th Assembly District

A third generation National City resident and graduate of Sweetwater High School, Alejandra Refugio Sotelo-Solis was first elected to the National City Council in 2008. She was only the second woman elected to the City Council and was subsequently selected by her peers as Vice Mayor. She is currently serving her third term as Councilmember.

Alejandra is the Director of the University of California, San Diego Community Law Project, working with undergraduate students pursuing careers in Law and Public Policy. Previously, she served as Community Relations Coordinator for the UC San Diego Chancellor's Office. She was District Director for former San Diego Assemblymember Lori Saldaña and Field Representative for former Monterey Park Assemblymember Judy Chu.

Alejandra graduated with a bachelor's degree in Political Science from UC San Diego, where she was active in the Cross-Cultural Center, student organizations and was a resident advisor in Eleanor Roosevelt College. She was the Community Education Coordinator of the annual Hate Free Campus Campaign in the Student Office for Human Relations and was selected to receive a UC San Diego Oceanids Award. Following her graduation from UCSD, Alejandra was selected for a Coro Fellowship in Public Policy in Los Angeles. As one of only 60 Coro Fellows selected across the nation, Alejandra gained experience with local leaders in government, business and labor. Alejandra is also a Past President of the UCSD Chicano Alumni Association.

Outside of her professional work, Alejandra is very active in the community. She serves as a Liturgical Minister at Saint Anthony's Catholic Church in National City and helps address social justice issues through the St. Anthony's Organizing Ministry. Alejandra is also an active member of the San Diego Cesar E. Chavez Commemorative Committee and was Co-Chair of the 2008 Parade Committee. She mentors young Latinas through San Diego MANA, promotes civic engagement through the South Bay Forum, and was Chair of the American Diabetes Association's Health Fair/Feria de Salud.

I commend Councilwoman Sotelo-Solis for her dedicated service to our community, tenacious advocacy, and assertive leadership, which make her a deserving recipient of this year's Woman of the Year Award.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lorena".

LORENA GONZALEZ FLETCHER
Assemblywoman, 80th District

