



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

PO Box 8119 San Luis Obispo, CA 93403-8119
July 16, 2014

*Kathleen Bellefontaine, Chair
Member at Large*

*Maryanne Zarycka
District 1 Representative*

*Alice York, Vice Chair
District 2 Representative*

*Anita Shower
District 3 Representative*

*Judy Mishoulam
District 4 Representative*

District 5 Representative

*Gari Cave
Area Agency on Aging,
Council*

*Elias Nimeh
Senior Nutrition Program*

*Brittany Carraway
Senior Service Provider*

*Marie Pounders
Member at Large*

*Carol Schmidt
Member at Large*

*Marilyn Hamilton
Member at Large*

*Myra Lathrop
Member at Large*

*Roger Randall
Alternate Member at Large*

*Leonard Milstein
Alternate Member at Large*

SLO County District Attorney

SLO County Mental Health

SLO County Social Services

San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
County Government Center
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Supervisors:

In accordance with the Bylaws of the SLO County Commission on Aging, Section 3 f, I hereby submit the annual report for the 2013-14 (July-June) year and Goals and Priority Issues for 2014-15.

The Commission meets every third Friday of the month (except in December) at the Veteran's Building, 801 Grand Avenue in San Luis Obispo. Our liaison and Department of Social Services Director, Lee Collins, has provided SLOCOA with a Representative from Adult Services who attends COA meetings and keeps members updated on DSS ability to meet the needs of the most vulnerable. Additionally, DSS administrative support electronically transmits COA affairs to the Supervisor's office, updates the SLOCOA website, and provides copy support when needed.

Our Commissioners serve and represent senior groups throughout the County. In addition to the Supervisors' appointees, we have representatives from local agencies such as the Area Agency on Aging, District Attorney's Office Victim Witness Program, County Mental Health and Senior Nutrition. Our members at large are Senior advocates informed about a variety of senior concerns including, but not limited to, housing matters, delivery of senior support services, senior centers, volunteerism, senior mental & physical health, scams and ID theft. Our members serve without pay for travel and time.

SLOCOA Goals

Progress in achieving two major COA goals in 2013-2014:

1) Continue to collect information from Seniors about their concerns and their solutions through:

MEDIA: The **SLOCOA website** is updated monthly with meeting agendas and minutes. Data is kept current regarding membership and annual reports. The **SLOCOA** rack card is reviewed and revised on a regular basis. **Tribune** posts SLOCOA presentations and meetings in the Senior Section as does **KCET Event Keeper**. Presentations through SLOCOA **Speaker's Bureau** brings recognition to SLOCOA **SENIOR CENTERS:** Chair provides monthly electronic notice of SLOCOA presentations to most Senior Centers Countywide. SLOCOA offered a panel made up of Senior Center Directors to provide our members and the public with education about the variety of ways our Centers retain their existence financially and through providing activities that draw younger & older seniors.

COMMUNITY AGENCIES: Regular attendance by the Chair or alternate at the Adult Services Policy Council meetings; work with SLO County Status on Women to highlight the mutual advocacy needed for women over 65 living alone and the majority of senior residents struggling to make ends meet; collaborating with County Planning Department and Housing Trust Fund.

2) Continue to provide relevant and timely information to the Board of Supervisors through:

SLOCOA website that publishes our agendas, minutes, and annual report; communication between Appointees and their Supervisors; sharing our input on legislative issues important to seniors.

See Attachment A—GOALS.

SLOCOA Priority Issues

2013-2014 issues followed by Commissioners were 1) Affordable Care Act: effects on Senior medical services; 2) Seniors need for emotional support; 3) Learn about Senior Centers: Challenges & Successes; 4) Learn about types of personal home care; 5) Learn about South County multi-level (of care) Senior housing. **See Attachment B --PRIORITIES** for details about how these issues were addressed throughout the year

SLOCOA Chair's Summary

This year's presentations focused primarily on the support systems for Senior mental and physical health. Panels of experts in our community spoke about "Services that Support Emotional Needs," "Challenges & Successes of Senior Centers," "Personal Home Care and Care Management." Speakers from SLO County Housing & Economic Development, SLO Housing Trust Fund and CAPSLO Home Repair kept us updated on affordable housing options and home maintenance assistance. These topics are, and probably will continue to be, very high on SLOCOA's list to stay informed about on behalf of our County Seniors.

I hope that **Attachment B-PRIORITIES**, which lists in detail the ways that SLOCOA has informed members and the public about significant priority senior needs, will be helpful to the Supervisors in understanding one of the reasons for SLOCOA's existence i.e., to disseminate relevant information to seniors.

Another reason for SLOCOA's existence is to provide a platform for the senior population to voice their concerns. This could not happen without the support of our Commissioners. They have chosen to give of their time to provide that platform for seniors in addition to the time that they donate to many other community causes. But the power of the platform is only as effective as the number of people who use it.

Therefore SLOCOA's number ONE Goal, year after year, has been to "...collect information from Seniors about issues of concern...." This year that input has increased significantly. SLOCOA has had public inquiries through their internet website; through referrals from 211; through media announcements. In turn, our knowledge base has also increased as insights were drawn from our own members, representatives from County Agencies, and other community entities such as Ride On, Wilshire Community Services, HICAP, Senior Connection, Senior Centers to name only a few.

SLOCOA is becoming more aware of the gaps in services and will be working with the Adult Services Policy Council to explore solutions.



Attachments include this 2013-14 summary and information to help clarify our activities in the past fiscal year, as well as the 2014-15 projected goals, priority issues for the next fiscal year and information to clarify aspects of the decision making process. Please feel free to offer any suggestions or requests that would facilitate our communication with the Board.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Bellefontaine, Chairperson
SLO County Commission on Aging