

Senior Affairs Advisory Board (SAAB) Bios

Antoinette Alioto

Ms. Alioto serves as the Director of Aging Connections at Jewish Family Service and volunteers as the Senior Assemblyperson for the California Senior Legislature. She has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Gerontology from San Diego State University and an Executive Certificate in Home Modification from University of Southern California and currently co-facilitates the San Diego Fall Prevention Task Force. She is currently serving a two-year term in the Senior Service Delivery Professional/Expert seat.

Marissa Feliciano, Marketing & Communications Director, Jamboree Housing

Marissa Feliciano is a passionate advocate for affordable housing and a champion for California's senior population. As Director of Marketing & Communications for Jamboree Housing, Marissa leverages her expertise in affordable housing, communications, and public relations to build awareness around housing affordability and the importance of housing for all. Drawing on her experience in senior housing—including 55+ affordable apartments, independent living, assisted living, and memory care—she is committed to ensuring that seniors have access to housing that is safe, supportive, and dignified. Marissa serves on multiple boards and committees, including the Senior Affairs Advisory Board and the BIASC 55+ Senior Housing Council.

Gwenmarie Hilleary, SAAB Chair

Following a 40-year career in healthcare administration and 10 years as a National Quality Examiner for long term care facilities, Gwenmarie retired. She was then appointed to the San Diego County Grand Jury, leading investigations of Mello Roos practices in San Diego and a study of water systems, reviewing water system delivery options for San Diego. She also serves as treasurer for the Poway Historical Society and Board Secretary for the Scripps Ranch Community Theater. She has been a leader in the development of long-term care service delivery systems and has numerous publications, advisory and lecture experience.

Jacqueline Jackson

Ms. Jackson is an advocate for people who are differently-abled, with over 40 years of managerial experience in the nonprofit sector. She serves on multiple boards and committees, including the California Commission on Disability Access, the City of San Diego's Accessibility Advisory Board, Senior Affairs Advisory Board, and San Diego's Independent Living Center. Additionally, she is a Climate Ambassador with the San Diego Urban Sustainability Coalition and was the first consumer chairperson of the San Diego County In-Home Supportive Services Advisory Committee. A dedicated community leader, Ms. Jackson holds a Bachelor's degree from San Diego State University and a Master's in education leadership with a specialization in nonprofit management from the University of San Diego.

Michelle Matter, SAAB Secretary

Michelle Matter is the Director of Aging at the SDSU Center for Excellence in Aging and Longevity. Her work focuses on caregiver training and peer support, intergenerational programs, and the development of age-friendly communities. She holds a Doctor of Education in Organizational Change and Leadership from the University of Southern California, where her dissertation focused on senior nutrition programs as a cost-savings to Medicare. Michelle also earned a MA in Gerontology from USC and a MBA with healthcare specialization from LSU. Michelle is passionate about advancing the well-being of older adults through innovative programs, policies, and community-based solutions.

William Peetoom, Founder & CEO, Kaizen Group International

William Peetoom, a proud Imperial Beach native and Mar Vista High School graduate, now resides in District 7 under Councilmember Raul Campillo. With extensive experience as a Residential Care Facility (RCFE) licensed administrator, Ombudsman, Private Caregiver, and Maxcare Ambulance Business Development Partner, he advocates for seniors' well-being, access to resources, and independent living. As a strong supporter of Blue Zone and Centurion Communities, William works to create environments where seniors thrive. He is also the founder and CEO of Kaizen Group International, championing healthcare innovation and diversity in business. Guided by his spiritual practices as a Reiki Master and Nichiren Bodhisattva, William blends leadership and compassion to serve the San Diego community.

Bob Prath

After retiring from a 30-year Naval career, Bob returned home to San Diego in 1991. He taught in public schools, managed a senior services nonprofit, and later led his own older adult services organization. A dedicated advocate, he has served on multiple county boards on aging and health. He received an award for his work in nursing home reform while with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and was twice named Volunteer of the Year by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. His passion for empowering older adults fueled his long-time volunteer work with AARP, Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program (HICAP), the California Senior Leaders Association, and others — to help older adults and their families live and age successfully.

JB Robinson, SAAB Legislative Chair

Dr. Robinson is a trained, licensed geropsychologist with experience working with clients of all abilities and ages. His clinical expertise in older adult concerns and disabilities, predominantly as they impact daily living, medical care, mental health, and sexuality. Dr. Robinson currently serves as the Dean of Students at National University where he has spearheaded the development of numerous student services aimed at making higher education more accessible and attainable for all.

Mary Scott Knoll

Mary Scott Knoll has spent the last thirty-three years in fair housing agency administration and related housing civil rights, advocacy, education, and enforcement. As the executive director of the Fair Housing Council of San Diego, her housing civil rights expertise has been developed through an ongoing variety of "hands-on" fair housing experiences. Among such experiences are community outreach, housing consumer and provider education, training programs for industry professionals, investigative-testing programs that produce evidence, and housing discrimination enforcement through litigation. One highlight of Ms. Knoll's service record is the long running conference series--Fair Housing for our Future Conference 1993--(<http://www.fhconference.com>). Ms. Knoll holds a Master's degree in Social Science Education from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a Juris Doctorate from Rutgers School of Law.

Juan Sotelo, President, Momentra Care, SAAB Vice Chair

Since relocating to San Diego in 2014, Juan has dedicated himself to empowering older adults to age comfortably in place by connecting them with vital resources and programs. His work in Senior Living and In-Home Care Support Services exposed him to the vulnerabilities faced by seniors and their families, fueling his passion to create and improve solutions for those in need. Embracing the local San Diego community and meeting its residents has transformed this work into more than just a profession; it's become a deeply rewarding way for Juan to

contribute to the well-being of his neighbors. He currently serves as Vice Chair of the Senior Affairs Advisory Board.

Rosemary White-Pope

Rosemary W. Pope has a deep passion, love and concern for San Diego's "seasoned" community residents. She has been residing in the 4th Council District (Southeastern San Diego) for 61 years and is committed to bringing equitable resources, education and opportunities to these marginalized communities. Her involvements in the following give credence to her tenacity in attaining these goals: : Retired 37 years from the San Diego Community College District (older adult instructor), Vice Chair Council for Minority Aging, former board member of Elder Help San Diego, San Diego Voice & Viewpoint Newspaper Columnist "For Seasoned Seniors Only", AARP Legislative Community Volunteer (Metro & Encanto Chapters), AIS Retired & Senior Volunteer Program, and former Mayors Dick Murphy and Jerry Sanders' Appointee to the SAAB Board. She was selected by Assemblywoman Shirley Horton as the 78th Assembly District Woman of the Year (2003) as well as Woman of the Year selected by 79th Assemblywoman Dr. Shirley Weber (2020). For the past 28 years, she served as the Executive Director of The Fourth District Seniors Resource Center. On July 25, 2022, she received a proclamation presented by Mayor Todd Gloria for "providing over 30 years of unselfish and committed service to San Diego's "Seasoned" Community Residents hereby declaring it Rosemary W. Pope's Day in the City of San Diego."