
**Ventura County Commission for
Women**

**2011-2012
ANNUAL REPORT**



**Presented on behalf of the Ventura County
Commission for Women**

By Lee Riggan, Chair

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Biographies



Commissioners Shante Morgan-Durisseau, Lee Riggan, Sharon Hillbrant, Carmen Hurd, Mary, Supervisor Kathy Long, Commissioners Nancy Lee Phillips, Elvia Guizar, Diana Goodrow, Ina Howard - 2006

Diana Goodrow

Diana Goodrow has been a member of the Ventura County Commission for Women (VCCW) since 1997. She served as VCCW Chairperson for three terms, from 2003 through June 2006, and as Vice Chair 2011-2012. She also serves as Co-Chair of the Committee for the Status of Women & Girls in Ventura County. As a member of the VCCW, Diana's goals include 1) To help women in Ventura County grow in ways that empower them more fully; 2) To network with other women's organizations to strengthen all women and their families.



Diana has been involved in Women's and Family Issues since 1950 as a mother and now as a grandmother and great grandmother and as a Professional in Early Childhood Education.

Diana is an advocate for concerns that affect women and families as a member of the Commission and as Regional Coordinator of Ventura County California Women's Agenda (CAWA). She is a founding member and President of the Ventura County Women's Forum Collaborative a 501(c)(3) membership organization that conduct Forums based on the Beijing Platform for Action. She is an activist for peace, human rights, and economic justice, and a founding member of the Ventura County Social Justice Fund.

She attended Pacific Oaks College, Pasadena, California earning a B.S. in Child Development and an M.A. in Human Development.

She is employed by Ventura County Library Services in Ojai, California as a Library Technician/Storyteller from 1997 to the present.

Committees: Executive; Status of Women & Girls in Ventura County; Advocacy.

	Rosandra Esquivel
	Joni Holling



LEE RIGGAN

Lee Riggan serves as the Ventura County Commission for Women Chair 2011-2012, a position she sought and serves with great dedication. She has also served for a term as Recording Secretary. She served as Chief Executive Officer of the Promotoras y Promotores Foundations 2005-2006 and as Executive Director of the Ventura County Commission on Human

Concerns & Community Development 1981-2005. She has 30 years of experience in administration, strategic planning, program development, research, grant writing, and community outreach and development. She has an AA in Natural Science, a BA in Cultural Anthropology, an MA in Educational Psychology, Counseling and Guidance. She holds credentials as a Community College Instructor and Counselor, as a Notary Public, B-General Building Contractor License (currently inactive) with experience in weatherization and home energy rating. She represents Supervisor Linda Parks on the Ventura County Commission for Women since 2005, and is a member of the California State Association, Zeta Chi Parliamentarian Unit, Business & Professional Women of Conejo Valley, Ventura County Women's Political Council, Ventura, Info-Net Thousand Oaks and Ventura County ACS & ARES, AARP Tax Assistant, NAACP member and a former member of Toastmasters International. She has 5 children, 5 grand children, and 3 great grandchildren.

Kitty Dill

Evolving careers have woven in Writing, Public Relations, and being an Author, Newspaper Journalist and Editor.

Offering community service is naturally embedded, coming from a civic-oriented family (mom founded the Santa Paula Sister City Committee, dad assisting, in the early '60s, to link hands with Mexico).

Pre-founder and co-founder of Ventura County Professional Women's Network, she received its inaugural Spirit of Networking. Other recognition includes the coveted City of Thousand Oaks' Excellence in the Arts Award.

She's been President, Arts Council of the Conejo Valley. Professional affiliations include Creative Communicators. Bachelor's, Master's degrees earned from CSUN, where she's on the Journalism Alumni Association Board.

Statewide, formerly with California Association of Public Information Officials, she wrote media relations chapters. Community Relations Specialist for Ventura Regional Sanitation District, she served as countywide beach clean-up coordinator, writing media relations segments for the California Coastal Commission.

To VCCW, Kitty brings first-hand insights. Milestones? Being an Interface Children and Family Services volunteer crisis counselor. Living three summers in Mexico. World travel. Core belief? "In a world connected by instant technology, basic values are still significantly disrespected. Love, kindness can hike awareness, combat this diminishing of human spirit as we do our own thing to improve living conditions."

Nancy Lee Phillips



Nancy Lee Phillips was appointed by Supervisor Kathy Long, District 3, to the Ventura County Commission for Women (VCCW) in 2004. She will be serving on the VCCW Executive Board as the Chair for the new term commencing July 2006 through June 2007. She has committed to serving on the TSPP Advisory Board.

Volunteer Organizational Positions Held:

- YMCA Board of Managers
- YMCA Indian Maidens Nation Chief
- Bedford Open PTA Treasurer
- Bedford Open PTA Auditor
- Bedford Open PTA Parliamentarian
- Bedford Open Newsletter Editor
- Monte Vista PTSC Parliamentarian
- Camarillo PTA Council Auditor
- Camarillo PTA Council Parliamentarian
- 12th District PTA Council Incentives Chair

Appointments, Awards and Recognitions:

- Commissioner, Ventura County Commission for Women
- Paul Harris Fellow Recipient
- PTA Honorary Service Award
- PTA Council Distinguished Service Award
- Camarillo Family YMCA Volunteer of the Year
- ACSA South Ventura County Confidential Employee of the Year
- Milt Musser Scholarship GGASA

Professional Experience:

Pleasant Valley School District, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Pleasant Valley School District, School Site Administrative Assistant
Jewelcast Inc., President and Partner

Elvia Guizar



As a result of serving in a volunteer capacity for the Commission, Elvia Guizar has recently been appointed to the Ventura County Commission for Women. She has committed to serving as a member of the TSPP Advisory Board.

Ms. Guizar has made and continues to make contributions to women in the migrant community in the area of personal and community health. She has recruited hundreds of “Promotores” or Community Health Volunteers to carry the message of preventative health skills and resources to the homes of migrant women and founded two organizations toward this purpose. She has volunteered for over 3 years as the Binational Health Week Coordinator for the Tri-Counties of Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. Ms. Guizar has recently been appointed as the Representative of Mexicans Abroad, in Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo for the term of 2006-2009 by the Mexican Consulate.

While employed as an agricultural worker, Ms. Guizar pursued an education and became a Registered Nurse. She is the middle child of seven children. Her immigrant parents encouraged her to get an education. She is bilingually fluent in Spanish and English.

She is employed by the Ventura County Public Health Department.

Community Activities:

- 1998-2003 served as Prenatal Outreach and Education Coordinator to increase the outreach to address the needs of the Hispanic Community.
- Coordinated the *Promotoras/es de Salud*, (*Community Health Promoters*) a group that provides health outreach to the Hispanic community who have little access to health care, validating the traditional health beliefs of the Hispanic community and integrating them into our researched medical practices of today.
- Binational Health Week Coordinator for the Tri-Counties of Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties with the Mexican Consulate from 2002 to Present, with the guidance of

the California-Mexico Health Initiative, California Policy Research Center University of California.

- 2001 - A founder of Mexteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project to assist Oaxacan immigrants in Ventura County
- 2000 - A founder of Promotoras y Promotores Foundation non-profit organization to increase outreach, health awareness to our community as well as disease prevention strategies.
- Training coordinator for the Mixteco Promotoras/es Training Program for the Mixteco Immigrant Health Education and Literacy Project (MIHELP) in Ventura County Public Health.

Awards:

1999 "Volunteer of the Year" from March of Dimes.

2002 "Nurse of the Year Award" from Ventura County Medical Resource Foundation.

2004 "Diversity Ambassador of the Year" Clara Barton award by American Red Cross.

Organizations that she has been a volunteer are as follows:

- American Red Cross, since 1999
- March of Dimes
- National Faculty Trainer the March of Dimes Program "Comenzando Bien" Healthy Beginnings
- Co-Chaired the Multi-Cultural Fair
- Past Board member of Casa Latina
- Recently appointed the Representative of Mexicans Abroad, in Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo for the term of 2006-2009
- Promotoras Y Promotores Foundation Development Advisory Committee
- Ventura County Family Violence Prevention Partnership
- Safe Kids Coalition.

	Ruth A. Funk

Janina Lawrence

Janina Lawrence was appointed by Supervisor Judy Mikels, District 4, to the Ventura County Commission for Women (VCCW) in 1999. She has served on the VCCW Executive Board as Co-Chair in 2002, 2003 and Vice-Chair in 2004. She is the author of the TSPP proposal. She has committed to serving on the TSPP Advisory Board.

Ms. Lawrence brings her 30 years of management and marketing experience to the VCCW. She was a mentor of Young Hispanic Women in Aerospace. She is proud that several of her young women have attained positions as Program Managers for Boeing and Contract Managers for Lockheed. She has been a volunteer mentor for pregnant/parenting teen girls at Apollo High School, Simi Valley. Her background and life experiences have given her a firsthand knowledge of the challenges which face women and children in her community. Serving on the VCCW gives her the opportunity to help women and girls overcome some of those challenges.

Community Activities:

Ventura County Commission for Women
Rotary Club
American Cancer Society
State Senate Campaign 2000, volunteer staff

Professional Memberships:

AIAA
IEEE
NAFE

Professional Experience:

Byte-Back, Vice President Marketing & Sales
Tecstar Inc., Director Program Development
Hughes Aircraft Company, Business Development Manager, Program Manager
Applied Solar Energy Corp., Contracts Manager
Gulton Industries, Program Manager, Contracts Manager

Education:

UCLA, B.A.
University of Sheffield, England
UCLA Extension, Professional Designation, Government Contracts Management,
Marketing and Sales



Shanté Morgan-Durisseau

Shanté Morgan-Durisseau has worked as a journalist, reporting on issues ranging from Hollywood typecasting to urban sprawl, for more than 20 years. She is currently a managing editor at California State University, Northridge and owner of Morgan Communications. She is the former editor of Turning Point magazine and worked as a reporter at several publications including Copley News Service, the Daily News and the Pasadena Star-News. She has also taught journalism at California State University, Northridge and California Lutheran University.

Ms. Morgan-Durisseau has a master's degree from the USC Annenberg School of Journalism. She graduated in 1990 from California State

University, Northridge with a bachelor's degree in journalism and Afro-American Studies. She is the first African-American woman to chair the Ventura County Commission for Women. Currently, she is co-chair of the commission's study on the Status of Women and Girls, the first comprehensive examination of this constituency in the county's history.

She is president of the Ventura County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., president of the Black Alumni Association at California State University, Northridge, and Farwest Regional Journalist for the Farwest Region of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She is a native of Los Angeles, who is married with two children and a resident of Moorpark, Calif.



In 1995, I became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. through the St. Louis Alumnae Chapter. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated is a private, non-profit organization, founded in 1913 on Christian principles. Its purpose is to provide services and programs to promote human welfare. Delta has over 250,000 predominately African-American, college educated women in over 950 chapters. In California, I have been active with and served as President two terms (2004-2008) of the Ventura County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (Oxnard, CA). I have also served as vice president, sergeant of arms, corresponding secretary and committee chair of social action, ways & means, arts & letters and

EMBODI (boys mentoring program).

In 2009, Ventura County Supervisor Peter Foy appointed me as Commissioner of the Ventura County Commission for Women (4th District). The Commission encourages, supports and facilitates the empowerment and education of Ventura County women. I was elected as chair during the 2010-2011 term.

I am a member of the Channel Islands Chapter of the Links, Inc. (Camarillo, CA). I have served as corresponding secretary, financial secretary and co-chaired the eighth annual Youth Summit. I have also been active with the "Finishing Touch" etiquette workshop and our annual Scholarship Fundraiser Luncheon. The Links, Incorporated is a not-for-profit organization of more than 10,000 women of color, committed to enhancing the quality of life in our communities. The Channel Islands Chapter is committed to civic, educational, and intercultural activities, focused, both, nationally & internationally on our youth and on the Arts.

In addition, I served as Chair of the Board of Directors for Inter-City Family Resource Center, San Francisco, CA from 2002-2008. The resource center serves Bayview, a low-income area with family advocacy, food pantry, crisis intervention, job assistance, peer counseling etc.

I am a member of the Simi Valley Community Council, National Coalition of Negro Women, and Life member of the NAACP.

I earned my Bachelor degree in Psychology/Sociology from Millikin University (Decatur, IL) and my Masters's degree in Marketing from Webster University (St. Louis, MO). I have participated in Women Unlimited Inc. - Leadership Training 2000- 2001 San Francisco, CA and Coro Fellowship – Women in Leadership Program 1993 - St. Louis, MO.

In 2004, I married Ted Bagley and my family now consists of our sons, Christopher & Marcus and a daughter Chantal. My hobbies are golf, shopping, & traveling. I enjoy music, concerts, and the Arts. I attend Simi Valley 2nd Baptist Church where I served as a Trustee and participate in the "Feed the Needy" program.

Ina Howard



Ina Howard was appointed to the VCCW in 1998-1999. She is serving as Correspondence Secretary and is a member of the Basic Needs Power Team for the study on the Status of Women & Girls in Ventura County. She is responsible for monthly greetings in recognition of special events in the lives of Commissioners and their supporters. She has served as hostess for the Women's Delegation from Africa, Job & Career Center Registration, and represented VCCW before the Board of Supervisors recognizing Welfare to Work graduates. Currently she is a Foster Grandparent volunteer helping 2nd grade students with math, reading, and writing classes of 30 students, assisting the teacher at Brekke Elementary School in Oxnard for 18 months (2011-Present). She has taught

Sunday School for 35 years (1973-2008) at Saint Paul Baptist Church, Oxnard.

She is a 51 year resident of Ventura County with 50 years in Oxnard and 1 year in Camarillo. She worked at General Telephone (now Verizon) for 29 ½ years, starting as a Long Distance Operator and ended as an Assignment Clerk for the last 5 years prior to her retirement. She worked as a receptionist at Proctor & Gamble, Oxnard, for 8 years where she met many interesting people.

She graduated from Crispus Attucks High School in Indiana, Indianapolis, and spent a year at Butler University majoring in business. She attended Ventura and Oxnard College taking general education, merchandising, and business courses including shorthand. In the 1990's Ina was founder and director of the "Caring Companion" business receiving accommodations from Supervisor John Flynn, Pastor Huggins, and pleased clients. She retired that business to care for her ailing mother. Following the death of her mother she attended the Women's Economic Ventures, graduating December 2008 after developing "Ina's Promise to Pleez Cobbler" business. Ina started her employment history at 20 years of age (around 1958) as a Check-out Cashier at Galyans Super Market in Indianapolis. She was the 3rd Black ("Negro") hired in that company in positions that opened as a result of the NAACP boycott. Eighty percent of company's business was from the Black community but no employees were of that ethnicity.

John Flynn, VC Supervisor of District 5, was impressed by Ina's work coordinating the Land Dedication for the new location of the Saint Paul's Church edifices in 1999 and recruited her to serve as a 5th District representative on the VCCW. She was reappointed by Supervisor John Zaragoza in January 2009.

Ina has one daughter, two grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. She now resides at the Mira Vista Village, Camarillo.

Carmen Hurd



Carmen S. Hurd was appointed to the Ventura County Commission for Women in October 2007. During that time she served in the Commission's Executive Committee for five years and participated in a variety of outreach programs for women in the county. She also served in various positions with the League of Women Voters of Ventura County as past editor of the Voter Newsletter, Unit Director for Oxnard and Port Hueneme Chapter and as Membership Chair. She was a Board Member of the League for the past ten years and currently serves in the Executive Committee. Prior to her retirement in 2000, she worked for the State of California Health and Welfare Division overseeing health programs.

Carmen has a Master's Degree in Public Administration/Public Policy from the California State University Northridge. She is also a Notary Public for the State of California.

Ana Cristina Flores
