

San Luis Obispo County Commission on Aging

Annual Report

June 1, 2009

San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
County Government Center
1055 Monterey Street
Room D430
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Board:

In accordance with the Bylaws of the County Commission on Aging, Section 3 f, I hereby submit the annual report for the 2008-09 (May to May) year.

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 DSS Director, Lee Collins, has provided the COA with administrative support from his office through clerical and administrative assistance, supplies, postage and 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, AARP, and Senior Nutrition. Our members at large are Senior advocates informed about a variety of Senior concerns including, but not limited to, Veteran's Affairs, transportation, housing and financial matters, delivery of affordable medical and social services. Our members serve without pay for travel and time.

Our goals for the past year were to follow these issues 1) Access to Affordable and Quality Healthcare, 2) Affordable Senior Housing, 3) Senior Isolation and Depression, 4) Transportation Options. In addition, we continued to promote and improve communication between the Commission and the Board of Supervisors. The enclosed attachment (page 1 & 2) will show, through the use of a Table, the actions taken to accomplish these goals. Page 3 provides a list of topics and speakers that educated our Membership about other important Senior issues. In turn, COA members can inform other seniors in their communities.

As Chair, I had 3 personal goals: 1) to achieve full membership and seek Alternates; 2) to improve our annual goal setting process, 3) to see more public representation at our meetings. I am happy to report full representation from the Supervisors, enthusiastic re-commitment by long-term members to continued support, and 3 enthusiastic, alternate-at large members. Our annual goal setting process was supported by a Planning Task Force and 80% of the

membership contributed to our selection of goals and priorities for the year 2009-2010. Incorporating more public input at meetings was achieved with a total of 3 visitors during the year, but not enough to feel successful in this arena. Our goals for next year will reflect a method to increase public input.

We hope that this document and the Table attached helps to clarify our activities in the past year. 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
(805) 235-5779