

## Governor's Advisory Council on Aging Current Member Bios

### **Lisa O'Neill, Chair**

Lisa O'Neill, DBH, MPH is the Associate Director of Research and Education for the University of Arizona Center on Aging, a Board of Regents Center of Excellence dedicated to promoting healthy aging through interdisciplinary programs in research, education, clinical care and community engagement, and a Clinical Assistant Professor for the University of Arizona College of Medicine, Division of Geriatrics, General Internal Medicine and Palliative Medicine. Dr. O'Neill has more than 10 years' experience in developing and implementing geriatric education and training for academic and community audiences. Her interdisciplinary research has focused on hoarding disorder, models of home care medicine, Alzheimer's disease, and optimizing resident quality of life in independent and assisted living settings. She was recently selected as a 2019-2020 Health and Aging Policy Fellow, a national program designed to build a cadre of geriatric and gerontology professionals trained to help shape a positive and healthy future for older Americans. Appointed to the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging in 2013, Dr. O'Neill has served in many leadership positions including Chair, 2017-2019. She also works with several state and regional committees dedicated to older adults such as the Arizona Alzheimer's Task Force, the Arizona Attorney General's Task Force Against Senior Abuse, and the Southern Arizona Caregiver Consortium.

### **Belinda Akes, Vice Chair**

Belinda Akes works for the Economic Development Group of Eloy as the Secretary/Treasurer. Mrs. Akes has been a lifelong advocate and volunteer because she is passionate about the importance of contributing to the wellbeing of others and helping those who cannot help themselves. She is active in many organizations, including serving as President of the Santa Cruz Valley Food Bank, Chair for Pinal - Gila Council for Senior Citizens Advisory Board, and as an elected Board Member of the Eloy Fire District. Additionally, she served 4 years on the Eloy City Council and was the Executive Director of the Eloy Chamber of Commerce for 8 years. Mrs. Akes was the recipient of the 2019 Advocacy Award from the Pinal-Gila Council for Senior Citizens, the designated Area Agency on Aging for Region V (Pinal and Gila County). Appointed to the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging in 2018, she currently serves as the Vice-Chair. As a senior citizen herself, Mrs. Akes strives to ensure older Arizona's are aware of available information and resources that can enhance and improve their life.

### **David Spelich, Secretary**

David Spelich graduated with his degree in Mortuary Science and has worked as a funeral director, criminal investigator for the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office and at the time of his retirement he was assigned as the Chicago Police Department's Violent Crimes Detective Liaison to the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office. He is co-author of a textbook on Medico-legal Death Investigations. Mr. Spelich has a combined twenty-four years in law enforcement. He was a Violent Crimes Detective for the majority of his career in the Chicago Police Department. He also spent time working on the streets in a beat car, a diver on the Marine Unit and an instructor at the CPD Police Academy. Currently, Mr. Spelich works as Chief Investigator for the State of Arizona Department of Education, and as of December 2018 he was elected to the Fountain Hills Town Council. Mr. Spelich has been active in community affairs, at both state, county and local levels. He is a member of the Sons of the American Legion, and the Fountain Hills Republican Club. In 2017 he assumed the duties of the 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president for that club. He currently serves as Republican State Committeeman in LD23. He has volunteered on the Maricopa Sheriff's Department Cold Case Posse. After serving one year on the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging (GACA), in 2018 he was appointed as Secretary of the Executive Board of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging (GACA), where he remains an active member.

### **Carol E Brown, Aging in Community Committee Chair**

Carol E Brown is the Program Development Manager for the Western Arizona Council of Governments – Area Agency on Aging Region IV, serving Yuma, La Paz, and Mohave Counties. Ms. Brown serves as lead coordinator and developer of resources for the Area Agency on Aging and its programs including managing public relations campaigns that provides access to services and benefits for enhancing a positive home and community based environment determined to most profoundly affect our Older Arizonan population. These efforts include top tier evidence based health and wellness programs, community outreach and advocacy in the areas of falls awareness and prevention, Alzheimer’s/Dementia education and support and elder abuse awareness and advocacy. Ms. Brown was appointed to the Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging in 2018, and was selected to chair the Aging in Community Committee in 2019. In addition to these duties, Ms. Brown currently serves as the Western Arizona Falls Prevention Coalition Chair, Treasurer for the Arizona Falls Prevention Leadership Council, member of the Alzheimer’s Association Desert Southwest Leadership Council, member of the Yuma County Elder Abuse Awareness Coalition, Attorney General’s Task Force Against Senior Abuse, and the Leadership Team for Age Friendly Arizona. Ms. Brown is also a Certified Instructor in the following programs: Mental Health First Aid, the Wellness Initiative for Senior Education and Dementia Friends. Ms. Brown was named the 2018 Ambassador of The Year by the Yuma County Chamber of Commerce for her service to the Chamber and Yuma County.

### **Barbara Marshall, Legislative Policy and Education Committee Chair**

Barbara Marshall has been a prosecutor with the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office since 1987. She has specialized in various areas of prosecution, especially juvenile and family violence. Since 1991 she has held several management positions in almost every area of prosecution. Ms. Marshall started the first Family Violence Bureau in 1996, which included the prosecution of vulnerable adults, and the Operations Division in 2014. She has worked on various statewide legislative and policy issues, including the drafting of the original vulnerable adult abuse legislation. Ms. Marshall is currently the Division Chief of the Organized Crime Division, comprised of several prosecution bureaus, including financial crimes against the elderly. Ms. Marshall has been a member of the Commission on Trial Court Appointments, the Maricopa Association of Governments Regional Domestic Violence Council (Chair), the Arizona Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Steering Committee, the Maricopa County Commission on the Seriously Mentally Ill, the Maricopa County Veteran’s Court Committee, the Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys’ Advisory Council Rules Committee and numerous other County and State level committees. Ms. Marshall also chairs the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office Hiring and Ethics Committees. She was the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement award from the Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys Advisory Council in 2018.

### **Steve Wagner, Marketing Committee Chair**

Steve Wagner is President and Founder of The RightCare Foundation, Inc., an Arizona non-profit corporation and 501(c)(3) Public Charity, founded in 2010. RightCare exists to advocate for and promote best practice care in local communities. Mr. Wagner is also an active-duty career firefighter paramedic with over 17 years of public safety experience, and is a Faculty Instructor at the High Performance CPR University at the University of Arizona (Phoenix). The CPR University provides hands-on workshops proven to dramatically improve CPR survival rates. Mr. Wagner also serves on several community and state Councils and Committees, including the Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging; Arizona Attorney General’s Taskforce Against Senior Abuse; Arizona Attorney General’s Health and Safety Committee; and the Health Improvement Partnership of Maricopa County (Champion Member).

**Deborah Hankerd, Council Member**

Since 2010 Deborah Hankerd has served as the manager of the Old Firehouse Senior Center in Tombstone Arizona, serving the seniors of Tombstone and surrounding areas. The Old Firehouse Senior Center provides a congregate meal service Monday through Friday, serving more than 12,000 meals every year. Mrs. Hankerd is Serv-Safe certified and organizes the daily meal logistics including developing the menus and cooking. She also manages approximately 30 volunteers. The Senior Center collaborates with the City of Tombstone, the Tucson and Tombstone Community Food Banks, the Southeastern Arizona Governments Organization (Area Aging on Aging, Region VI) and the Arizona Department of Economic Security Division of Adult and Aging Services for food and supply donations. Various educational and socialization activities are also offered to older adults including nutrition and exercise classes, bingo, bunco, computer help, and line dancing. Previously Mrs. Hankerd lived in Anchorage, Alaska for 35 years working with her husband in running several family owned businesses including a construction company.

**Lee H. Olitzky, Council Member**

Mr. Olitzky, BA, MA, is the CEO of the national health care consulting and management firm, WiT2 and also currently serves as the Vice President of Health Services for American Indian Health Management and Policy. WiT2 specializes in post-acute care service and community health center research, development, operations and management. Mr. Olitzky has spent more than 20 years working with Native American Indian communities improving health services to older adults throughout Indian Country. He has designed and developed numerous health facility projects from the ground up as well as developing community based LTSS systems. Amongst many projects, he has provided elder related services to the Ak Chin Indian Community, Tohono O'odham Nursing Care Authority, White Mountain Apache Tribe, Hopi Tribe, and numerous other Native American Tribes. Mr. Olitzky is the Vice President of the board of the Tucson Housing Foundation, board member of the Marshall Home for Men and the Casitas on Broadway, a HUD elder housing project. He has a MA degree in Gerontology from the University of South Florida, School of Aging Studies. Past positions of leadership include: the former Director of the New England Gerontology Center at the University of New Hampshire; Grants and Contracts Manager, Massachusetts Department of Elder Affairs; Associate Director of the Miami Jewish Health Systems; and CEO of Handmaker Services, Tucson, AZ.

**Bob Roth, Council Member**

The Roth Family created Cypress HomeCare Solutions in 1994 and Mr. Roth has been the Managing Partner since 2003. Cypress HomeCare Solutions is proud to assist and empower older adults to age independently in their own homes. He has over 35 years of consumer products, health care and technology experience. Mr. Roth has been honored to receive a number of awards over the years, including but not limited to being chosen CEO of the Month in January 2014 by C-Level Magazine Greater Phoenix Edition, and a finalist for the 2015 Phoenix Business Journal's Healthcare Heroes award. Cypress HomeCare Solutions won the Better Business Bureau's Business Ethics award in 2013. After taking the mandatory 5 years off from being eligible for this prestigious award, Cypress once again was a finalist, and secured their second victory on May 15, 2018. Mr. Roth is an advisor to a number of national and state home care associations including the Home Care Association of America and serves on the Board of Directors for DUET Partners in Aging. He also hosts a radio show called "*Health Futures, Taking Stock in You*" every Friday on Money Radio 1510 AM, 105.3 FM. The talk show, in its 6<sup>th</sup> year, focuses on our aging adult community and covers topics on how to live a healthier happier life. Mr. Roth writes a monthly column called "Aging Today" for the Jewish News of Greater Phoenix, and Lovin Life after 50 newspapers. Appointed by Governor Doug Ducey, Mr. Roth has been serving on the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging since March 2017.

**John B. Stiteler, Council Member**

John is a native Phoenician and graduated from Arizona State University in 1954. John was Manager of the Phoenix office for Cigna, a major insurance carrier, and retired in 1985 and subsequently served in a consulting role. In 1972 as a Cigna manager, John originated the Arizona Healthcare Plan. Currently the Cigna Health plan has over 23 million members nationwide. John founded JES Development in 1977, its successor Exeter, LLC, and eventually Pathways Investments LLC. John has been active in senior living operations and development since 2005, initially as a lender than as an owner. John now spends his full time expanding the assisted living and memory care business. He currently owns and manages over 400 beds and is involved in the development of an additional 150 beds. John has been also involved in business and community affairs and has served on many boards including the Phoenix Planning and Zoning Commission, the Phoenix Airport Authority, the Arizona State Property Tax Oversight Committee and the Phoenix 2000 General Planning Committee. He was most recently President of the Heard Museum.