

HU 4/5.11/2011

C.2

COLORADO STATE PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY



3 1799 00151 8216



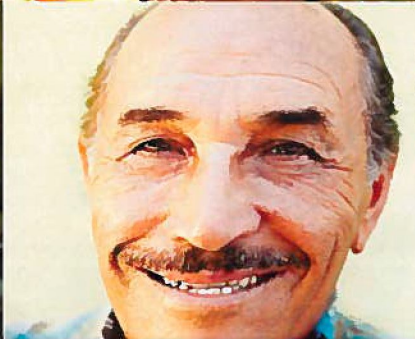
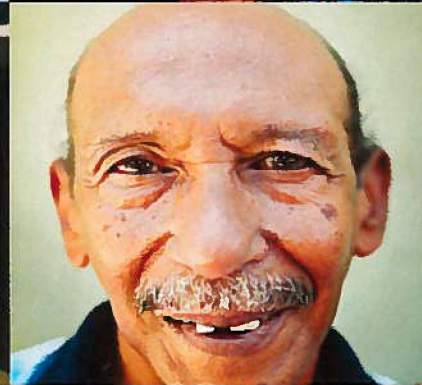
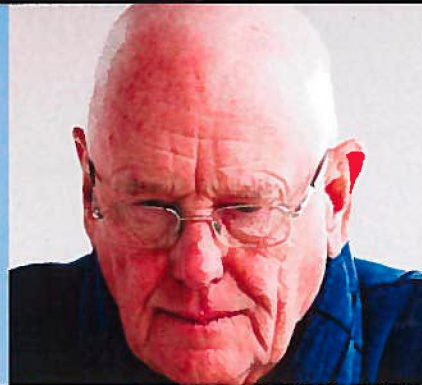
Colorado Department  
of Human Services  
*people who help people*

# COLORADO COMMISSION ON AGING

SUPPORTING COLORADO'S SENIOR POPULATION

# 2010/11 ANNUAL REPORT

[WWW.COLORADOAGING.COM](http://WWW.COLORADOAGING.COM)



## Report from the Chair, Colorado Commission on Aging

I was elected as the Chair of the Colorado Commission on Aging (CCOA) for my second term at our annual meeting in Denver in July, 2010. At that time, we embarked on several initiatives to assist seniors from all over Colorado. The Commission was established in 1964 to inform and advise decision makers and to advocate for the quality of life for all seniors, especially the low income, rural, and frail elderly.

The CCOA is a volunteer organization consisting of seventeen people appointed by the Governor and approved by the Senate Health and Human Services committee—one Republican and one Democrat from each of the seven Congressional Districts, one at-large commissioner, one member from the State Senate and one member from the State House of Representatives. Each commissioner serves up to two four-year terms. As we begin another year, I would like to welcome five new members to the Commission: **Leanne Abdnor** (R-CD 2), **Grant Jackson** (D-CD 2), **Ruth Long** (D-CD 4), **Sara Canfield** (R-CD 4), and **State Senator Lucia Guzman** (D-District 34). In addition, we would like to thank two Commissioners whose participation on the Commission has ended. Our thanks goes out to **Fred Calovich** (D-CD 7), and **Dr. Karyn Leible** (D-CD 2).

The CCOA not only works closely with state legislators, but with the State Unit on Aging, local Area Agencies on Aging and other organizations that promote senior issues. In fact, collaborating with many senior-related organizations has been a desire and working goal of the Commission for many years. We feel during 2010-2011, the Commission has shown a significant movement towards these goals and we look forward to continuing this effort. In addition, the members of the CCOA assist in any way possible with activities at our local senior centers to promote nutritious meals, in-home services, transportation, legal services, and family and caregiver support programs. These essential services improve the quality of life and independence for thousands of elderly seniors throughout Colorado.

As my tenure of Chair comes to a close, I want to personally invite you to attend the CCOA meetings so that you can share your concerns and, become better informed about senior issues so you can join us in advocacy efforts for all older adults.

With warm regards,  
– *Maureen Robinson, Chair*

## Accomplishments, Awards and More...

From its beginnings in 1964, the CCOA has stayed true to its course and its ongoing mission, which is to inform and advise decision-makers and to advocate for Colorado seniors' quality of life. This past year was no exception. Following is a brief overview of our 2010/2011 endeavors in pursuit of those goals.

### COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Community Relations Committee is co-chaired by Gretchen Cerveny and Alice Langley with Maureen Robinson and Vivian Stovall as members. The Community Relations Committee believes that involvement in the community is a high priority and helps all Coloradans learn more about the Commission and the activities it supports. During 2010/2011 they helped sponsor a number of important annual events.

### SENIOR DAY AT THE CAPITOL – FEBRUARY 23, 2011



Senior Day at the Capitol was once again a resounding success with over 300 participants attempting to find available seating in the very crowded Supreme Court Chambers. Many senior groups came together to serve as planners, greeters, ushers, and overall sponsors of this wonderful event. Twenty-three legislators attended the event and spoke to the crowd about upcoming bills that they were sponsoring, many of which directly affected those in attendance. As always, with both their voices and their buttons, the idea of "Senior Power" was expressed loud and clear throughout the building!

### CENTENARIAN CELEBRATION

Each year, CCOA sponsors the annual Centenarian Celebration during Older Americans Month in May. The event recognizes Colorado seniors who have reached their milestone **100th (or older) birthday!**



This year's function was held on May 6, 2011 in Steamboat Springs, Colorado in conjunction with the Regional Advisory Council's Senior Citizen of the Year awards. Five Centenarians were honored with a certificate signed by the Governor as well as special recognition of each individual's lifelong achievements. The highlight of the awards was the entertainment provided by recipient Clarence Carnal, who at 102 years old, recited three cowboy poems that were truly a crowd favorite. It was a wonderful day and reminds us that a century of living provides a rich perspective for us all.

**CCOA volunteers provide their leadership.**

## THE 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ALLEN BUCKINGHAM SENIOR LEADERSHIP LEGACY AWARD WINNER – DAVE NORMAN



Named for Allen M.A. Buckingham, who served on the CCOA from 1986 to 1998 and additionally held other key positions in his career, the Allen Buckingham Senior Leadership Legacy Award is given to an individual who, having made a noteworthy contribution to the senior population in Colorado, is nominated

by his or her peers. Allen promoted the needs of older people – especially helping to ensure that they live in dignity, have freedom and choice, and realize full and active participation in their society. The spirit of his service is celebrated annually with this award.

The 2010 winner of the award was Mr. Dave Norman.

The Northwest Colorado Area Agency on Aging has been administered since its inception and for its entire 36 year existence by the program's director, Dave Norman. The numerous programs that he has initiated assist more than a quarter of the senior citizens of the Western Slope in Colorado. Over the years, Dave has strongly supported the presentation of numerous conferences and workshops that sought to address matters of concern to senior citizens and service providers. Among these is the Western Slope Roundup. Throughout his extensive career of service, Mr. Norman has served as a member and past chair of the Colorado Aging Policy Advisory Committee, has organized grassroots advocacy efforts and hosted the Colorado Governor's White House conference on Aging for the western region. He currently serves as President of the Colorado Association of Area Agencies on Aging.

The Commission thanks Dave for everything he has done for seniors throughout Colorado!

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The Legislative Committee is led by Co-chairs Russ DenBraber and Vivian Stovall. Other members of the Committee are Sheila Casey and Leanne Abdnor.

Russ reports that the CCOA's legislative committee was once again very active during this year's session, meeting weekly via conference call to discuss bills as they were introduced and also attending meetings of other groups of senior advocates to get the pulse from a wide range of seniors.

*All CCOA meetings are open to the public and we encourage you to attend. Please call 303-866-5288 or visit our website [www.coloradoaging.com](http://www.coloradoaging.com) for a schedule of upcoming meetings.*

The Commission successfully supported bills that have now been signed by or at least sent to the Governor. These bills advocate and support seniors in the following important ways:

- ▶ Continuing voluntary check-off boxes for donations to the Alzheimer's Association and the 9 Health Fair on individual tax returns.
- ▶ Improving access to the low-income telephone assistance program.
- ▶ Making acupuncture a covered expense under health care plans.
- ▶ Allowing the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to create special electric rates for customers using medical equipment that consumes electricity.
- ▶ Extending in-home support care services programs.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Strategic Planning Committee is led by Linda Sanden. Other members of the Committee are Steve Bender, Russ DenBraber, Gretchen Cerveny, Karl Aguilera, Debera Stewart, and Ruth Long.

The Strategic Planning Committee provides a key component to the Commission by identifying specific programs and issues for further study and identifies and discusses action plans. The Committee encourages possible policy changes by addressing these issues on a regular basis. This year the Strategic Planning Committee looked at how to better increase communication between the CCOA and the Governor's office, the State Unit on Aging, and the AAAs. It also began preliminary discussion of the upcoming White House Conference on Aging to be held in 2015.

## NEW LEADERSHIP



In September 2010, Dan Daly was selected as Director of the Division of Aging and Adult Services for Colorado. The Division houses the State Unit on Aging, Adult Financial Programs, and Adult Protective Services. In this role, he serves as the Executive Director of the Colorado Commission on Aging. He is excited about

joining the Aging Network and looks forward to addressing the challenges that it faces in the years to come.

Prior to accepting the Director position, he spent 15 years in budget and program management in several Department positions. Dan received a Bachelor's degree in History from Colorado State University and a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Colorado, Denver. Dan and his wife live in Denver with a couple of needy but lovable dogs. He is an avid golfer whose golf game has unfortunately suffered in direct proportion to the level of professional responsibility he has undertaken since graduating from college.

## NEW APPOINTMENT BY THE GOVERNOR



In January 2011, Governor John Hickenlooper appointed Mr. Reggie Bicha as Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Human Services.

Director Bicha served most recently as Secretary of the Department of Children and Families for the state of Wisconsin. Like Colorado, Wisconsin is a state-supervised, county-administered human services system. He brings a strong focus on outcomes, results, accountability, transparency, and a belief in vital local partnerships with him to Colorado.

Director Bicha earned a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and a Master's degree in the same subject from the University of Minnesota. In 2009, he received the Department of Health and Human Services Commissioner's Award for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. He and his wife, Becky, have three children and have served as foster parents.

The Commission welcomes Director Bicha and looks forward to working with him to assist seniors throughout Colorado.

## Commissioners



*Front Row, left to right:* Maureen Robinson—Chair, Sheila Casey—Vice Chair, Vivian Stovall

*Back Row, left to right:* Steve Bender, Ruth Long, Debera Stewart, Gretchen Cerveny, Leanne Abdnor, Dan Daly—Executive Director, Russ DenBraber, Tara Franck—Administration

*Not Pictured:* Karl Aguilera, Senator Lucia Guzman, Representative Tom Massey, Alice Langley, Linda Sanden