Senior Affairs Advisory Board
Proposed Leadership Slate for Board Election 2026-2027

Chair: Gwenmarie Hilleary
Gwenmarie Hilleary has consistently displayed remarkable vision and leadership in her work with the board. She adeptly navigated the intricate process of revising the bylaws, showing both a strong command of organizational governance and a steady, thoughtful approach. Open to all input, she has organized and managed meetings with uncommon expertise that keep the board on track and on topic. Her skill in building relationships with stakeholders and her effective leadership while serving in an interim capacity clearly position her as an outstanding choice for Chair.

Vice-Chair: William Peetoom
William Peetoom has consistently demonstrated thoughtful engagement and meaningful contributions at every meeting. His insights, grounded in a wealth of life experience, brought wisdom and practical perspective to board discussions. He has earned the confidence and respect of fellow board members through steady professionalism, sound judgment, and a genuine commitment to advancing the Board's mission. His ability to foster collaboration and maintain a sense of purpose has strengthened the group's teamwork and established him as a trusted candidate for Vice Chair.

Secretary: Michelle Matter
Michelle Matter has proven herself to be an invaluable asset to the board through her meticulous approach to recordkeeping and documentation. She brings a rare blend of accuracy, organization, and consistency to every meeting, ensuring that discussions, decisions, and follow-up actions are captured with complete clarity. Her thorough documentation not only preserves the integrity of the board's work but also provides a reliable foundation for transparency and continuity over time. Michelle's dedication to precision and her ability to manage complex information with calm professionalism play a crucial role in keeping board operations running smoothly and effectively. Her steady hand and attention to detail make her an essential contributor to the board's overall success.

Legislative Chair: 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.

Summary:
Each nominee has agreed to serve in their respective roles, bringing proven leadership, dedication, and expertise to support the mission of the Senior Affairs Advisory Board. Their combined experience will ensure continued growth, strategic progress, and successful execution of board initiatives.