

From: VOASW Admin <voaswadmin@voasw.org>
Date: May 14, 2021 at 3:40:19 PM PDT
To: VOASW Employees <voaswemployees@voa-swcal.org>
Cc: bbanaszynski@voa.org
Subject: Update and thank you for VOASW staff

Dear Volunteers of America Southwest Family:

You are all aware of the turbulent situation we have been going through and we wanted to keep you updated on the latest actions that have been taken. The Board of Directors of Southwest has always wanted what is best for the individuals we serve and the employees working on the front lines. You all do such an incredible job and give so much heart to the work you do. We believe the decisions we have made are what is best for the affiliate and for all of you. We want your great work to continue with a bright vision for the future.

Gerald McFadden, the President/CEO, has chosen to retire after many long years of service, effective immediately. He has made the decision to step aside so the affiliate can rebuild and move on. We thank Gerald for his service and the dedication he has shown to not only this affiliate but everywhere he has served. We know many of you may want to say good-bye and we would encourage you to reach out to him.

The Southwest Board has also made the decision to surrender the charter of the affiliate back to the National Board. What this means is that the affiliate moves forward as an “unchartered affiliate” under the direction of the National Office with no interruption to services or programs. Barbara Banaszynski, Senior Vice President at the National Office, is now the Acting President/CEO of the affiliate. She spent a great deal of time at the affiliate in November and December and is very familiar with our funding sources, plans to rebuild and repair and has worked with many of you. Barbara has great expertise in this kind of situation, is well respected by our funders and has a wonderful passion for our mission. You could not be under better leadership.

The National Board will become the board for the Southwest Affiliate but we are all committed to working closely with that board and the national office team to support the affiliate in any way we can. We stand committed to the work each of you are doing and we love the mission. We hope you can understand the decisions we made and know we truly believe they are what is best for this affiliate and those we serve.

Sincerely,

Philip Curtis

Former Board Chair