



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE REGIONAL MEMBER AD-HOC COMMITTEE (FARM)

MEMBER AND ALTERNATE BIOS DRAFT

MARY CHEH, CHAIR

Councilmember, District of Columbia

Councilmember Mary M. Cheh (D-Ward 3) has served on the Council of the District of Columbia since 2007 and is currently the Chair of the Committee on Transportation & the Environment. A tenured constitutional law professor at the George Washington University Law School, Councilmember Cheh has fought for good government and championed legislation to protect the environment and improve the health of District residents through numerous nutrition, food access, and sustainability initiatives.

In 2010, Councilmember Cheh passed the landmark Healthy Schools Act that instituted some of the strongest school meal nutritional standards in the country and provided free breakfast to all public school children in the District. Since its passage, Councilmember Cheh has introduced a suite of nutrition-focused legislation and supported several innovative food access initiatives. These include the Produce Plus Program, which provides vouchers for fresh produce at farmers markets to low-income residents; the Produce Prescription Program, which provides a weekly allotment of fruits and vegetables to food-insecure patients with chronic illnesses; and the Healthy Corner Stores Partnership Program, which provides fresh produce and healthy snacks to corner stores in DC's low-income communities. In 2014, to address the need for stronger coordination between the government and local food advocates, she created the DC Food Policy Council to focus on new food policies, equity, and means to better support those participating in the food economy.

Outside of her food access and nutrition work, Councilmember Cheh has spearheaded legislation to reduce food waste, enhance composting, and increase both urban and rooftop agriculture in the District. Her most recent achievement is the establishment of the Office of Urban Agriculture within the Department of Energy & the Environment. This new office is tasked with the promotion of urban, indoor, and other emerging agriculture practices in the District through programming, outreach, and support.

CRAIG RICE, VICE CHAIR

Councilmember, Montgomery County, MD

Councilmember Craig Rice was elected in 2010 to the Montgomery County Council, after previously having served in the Maryland House of Delegates from 2006 until 2010, where he was on the legislative body's Ways and Means Committee.

Councilmember Rice chairs the Council's Education and Culture Committee and also serves on its Health and Human Services Committee. He is on the National Association of Counties (NACo) Board of Directors, Vice-Chair for the Human Services and Education Steering Committee, and co-chair for their National Broadband Task Force to Bridge the Digital Divide. In addition, he serves as the Council's representative to the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) in Annapolis and chairs MACo's Education Sub-Committee. Councilmember Rice is the past chair and current member of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee. He has also served on the Maryland Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education.

JON STEHLE, VICE CHAIR

Councilmember, City of Fairfax, VA

Councilmember Jon R. Stehle, Jr., is serving his third term on City Council in the City of Fairfax.

Councilmember Stehle is the President Elect of the Virginia Municipal League. He also serves as the Chair of the COG's Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee. A city resident since 2007, he has chaired the city's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. He also served on the Green Acres Feasibility Study Committee and the city's Branding Advisory Committee.

Councilmember Stehle has served as president of the Oxford Row Civic Association, and is a director with Data & Insights Division of Tyler Technologies. As a senior analyst with the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), he received a GAO Meritorious Service Award in 2013.

Councilmember Stehle holds a master's degree in public and international affairs from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs and a master's degree in national security and strategic studies from the U.S. Naval War College.

MARYLAND ELECTED OFFICIAL MEMBERS

GILBERT (BJ) BOWLING III

Commissioner, Charles County, MD

Commissioner Bowling is a lifelong resident of Charles County. He currently resides in Dentsville, Maryland with his wife of 16 years, Jennifer, and their two daughters, Jillian and Caroline.

Commissioner Bowling has always served his community and enjoyed a career in public safety for over 19 years. As such, he is an 18-year member of his union where he has served in a variety of capacities on the Board of Directors. Active in many community organizations, Commissioner Bowling volunteered with the United Way of Charles County where he served on the Board of Directors as Chairman. Commissioner Bowling was elected to the Charles County Democratic Central

Committee in 2014 and served as the Chairman for 3 years from 2014-2017. Serving as a current member of the Charles County Farm Bureau, Commissioner Bowling was also honored to serve as the Vice-President. He owns and operates a 5th generation family farm with his grandfather and father. This proud family farm raises grass fed beef and vegetables that they sell to the local community. Commissioner Bowling firmly believes that it is essential that the citizens become involved in the activities of our government and community to ensure a bright and prosperous future for all of our children.

SYDNEY J. HARRISON

Council Member, Prince George's County, MD

During the General Election of 2018, Sydney J. Harrison was elected to serve his first four-year term, on the Prince George's County Council representing the constituents and businesses of Council District 9. During the 2019 legislative year, Council Member Harrison was appointed to chair the Education and Workforce Development Committee and was selected to be a member of the Health, Human Services and Public Safety Committee. During the 2020 Legislative year, Council Member Harrison was appointed to Chair the Education and Workforce Development Committee, Vice-Chair of the Health, Human Services and Public Safety Committee, and Vice-Chair of the Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee. Council Member Harrison has sponsored and supported numerous legislative bills and items, which targeted improving the quality of life for Prince George's County residents.

Prior to serving on the County Council, Council Member Harrison was elected to serve as Clerk of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. As Clerk of the Circuit Court, Council Member Harrison managed and led a multifaceted team of court professionals, as well as maintained case files for four major Circuit Court divisions (Civil, Criminal, Juvenile, and Land Records). Council Member Harrison also served as the former Vice-Chair of the Maryland Clerk's Association and was elected to serve as the Democratic Central Committee, 27th Legislative District representative.

Council Member Harrison is also a former small business owner, in Prince George's County, as well as a former real estate professional. Over the past several years, Council Member Harrison has been very active in the community, while serving and supporting the nonprofit sector and conducting missionary work around the world. One of Council Member Harrison's greatest honors is being the proud father of his son, Jerrell, who is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and a graduate of High Point University.

Charles County Alternate

REUBEN B. COLLINS II, ESQ.

President, Charles County Commission

Commissioner President Collins was elected President in November 2018 and was elected as Commissioner for District 3 in 2006 serving two (2) terms.

Commissioner President Collins is a lifelong resident of Charles County, was raised in Bryans Road and is a proud graduate of the Charles County School system. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, advancing to earn his Jurisprudence Doctorate (J.D.) from the District of Columbia School of Law. For over twenty years, he practiced law for R.B. Collins Law, LLC with an emphasis on corporate and small business transactions.

His public service career started over 30 years ago to include two previous terms as Charles County Commissioner for District 3 and Charles County Vice-President during his second term in office. Commissioner President Collins is the first African American elected as Commissioner President for Charles County. He has worked on several important County initiatives including the Charles County Housing Authority, 2008, Minority Business Program Collaboration, 2008, Rural Housing Improvement Initiative, 2009, Waldorf Sidewalk Initiative, 2010, Light Rail Initiative Collaboration, 2011, Summer Youth Employment Program, 2012, Waldorf Beautification Project, 2012, Waldorf Redevelopment Corridor, 2012, and the Pomonkey Redevelopment Project, 2013. Commissioner President is also the author of Evolutionary Actuality, published in February 2013.

VIRGINIA ELECTED OFFICIAL MEMBERS

AMY B. JACKSON

Councilwoman, City of Alexandria

Amy B. Jackson was elected to City Council on November 6, 2018, to serve a three-year term from 2019 through 2021. As a member of City Council, Jackson serves on a variety of local and regional boards: The City Manager's Quality of Life Committee, City Corps Council, INOVA Alexandria Hospital Task Force, Eisenhower Partnership Board of Directors, Combined Sewer Outfall Project Review Team Workgroup, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee, Potomac Watershed Roundtable, Gang Prevention Community Task Force, and the Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission.

Prior to her election, Jackson served as an appointee to the Alexandria Commission for Women and the Alexandria Landlord and Tenant Relations Commission. Jackson also served on many local non-profit boards and committees, including as Chair of The Fund for Alexandria's Child Advisory Council, Chair of Alexandria's Human Trafficking Awareness Initiative, Junior Friend of The Campagna Center, advocate of our Human Rights Commission, and board member of the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum. She has also sponsored several charitable events over the years, especially for Alexandria's children, for The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, The Campagna Center, SCAN, The Child and Family Network Centers, and the Center for Alexandria's Children. Jackson also remains as an active member of the John Alexander Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Alexandria Democratic Committee, and Board of Directors of Senior Services of Alexandria.

Jackson has been a life-long community activist and educator. Raised a proud Alexandrian, she is an ACPS graduate, having attended Patrick Henry Elementary School, F.C. Hammond Junior High School, and T.C. Williams High School. She then went on to complete her bachelor's degree in communication studies at Virginia Tech. She also holds two master's degrees in education from George Mason University in Curriculum and Instruction (Secondary Education, grades 6-12, with Social Studies Education focus), and in Education Leadership (School Administration, grades Pre-K-12). Jackson's career with Fairfax County Public Schools has spanned 16 years as a teacher, coach, mentor, club and class sponsor, curriculum (social studies-history) team lead, four core-curriculum team lead, and administrator, including appointments to the School Improvement Plan (SIP) as Committee Chair, and Pyramid-Cluster Reorganization Committee member. Jackson has also been a recipient of the FCPS Outstanding Employee Award.

Jackson and her family live in Alexandria's West End. Her two young children currently attend Alexandria City Public Schools.

LIBBY GARVEY

Board Chair, Arlington County, VA

Libby Garvey was elected to the Arlington County Board in March 2012, after serving on the Arlington County School Board for 15 years, including five times as chair. On Jan. 2, 2020 her colleagues unanimously elected her Chair of the County Board.

Ms. Garvey began her professional career as a teacher in the Peace Corps in the Central African Republic. She worked as a legislative aide to Congressman Lee Hamilton and as an associate director of the Mount Holyoke College Washington Internship Program. Virginia Governor Mark Warner appointed Ms. Garvey to serve on the P-16 Education Council, a position she continued under Governor Tim Kaine.

Throughout her career, Ms. Garvey has been involved in many community organizations, including serving as vice president of the County Council of PTAs; vice president of the Fairlington Civic Association; and vice-chair of the Advisory Council on Instruction. She established the Kennan Garvey Memorial Fund for Phoenix Bikes in memory of her husband and is serving on its board. She has served as an occasional volunteer speaker for the Washington Regional Transplant Community.

Ms. Garvey also sits on several Regional Groups. She currently sits on Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, Transportation Planning Board, Council of Government's Emergency Preparedness Council, and she is the past Chair of the Council of Governments Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Committee on which she still serves.

An Arlington resident since 1977, Ms. Garvey earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts. She has two daughters (graduates of Arlington County Public Schools) and five grandchildren.

PENELOPE A. (PENNY) GROSS

Supervisor, Fairfax County

Penny Gross was first elected to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, representing the Mason District, in November 1995, and was re-elected to her 7th term on November 5, 2019. Supervisor Gross is vice-chair of the Board, and chairs the Personnel Committee.

Regionally, Supervisor Gross represents Fairfax County on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, which she chaired in 2009; the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, which she also chaired; the INOVA Health System Board of Trustees, and the Potomac Watershed Roundtable.

On the state and national level, Supervisor Gross is a past president of the Virginia Association of Counties, vice-chair of the National Association of Counties' Energy, Environment, and Land Use Committee, and past president of the National Association of Regional Councils.

Supervisor Gross writes a weekly column in the Falls Church News Press, and hosts the monthly

television show, Mason Matters, on Channel 16. Supervisor Gross and her husband, Hal, reside in the Lincolnia section of Mason District.

CALEB A. KERSHNER

Supervisor, Loudoun County, VA

Supervisor Caleb A. Kershner was elected to represent the Catoctin District on the Board of Supervisors in November 2019.

He serves on the Board of Supervisors' Finance/Government Operations and Economic Development Committee. He represents Loudoun on the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, the Loudoun County Agricultural District Advisory Committee, the Coalition of Loudoun Towns (COLT) and the Annexation Area Development Policy Committee.

Supervisor Kershner, an attorney, is a partner in the law firm of Simms Showers, LLP in Leesburg.

A native of Frederick, Maryland, where he grew up on a farm, he moved to Loudoun in 1995 and worked for the Home School Legal Defense Association in Purcellville as director of federal relations. He earned a bachelor's degree in finance with honors from George Mason University in 2001 and a doctorate in law from George Mason University in 2005. Supervisor Kershner began his legal career as an assistant commonwealth's attorney in Loudoun County, prosecuting criminal cases between 2005 and 2009.

Supervisor Kershner has been an active community volunteer, currently serving as an officer on the board of directors for the Loudoun County Fair and Associates, a nonprofit organization which hosts the Loudoun County Fair. He has also been a member of the Lovettsville-Waterford Ruritans.

Supervisor Kershner lives in Hamilton with his wife, Whitney, and their four children. They attend Cornerstone Chapel in Leesburg.

ANN B. WHEELER

Chair-At-Large, Prince William County, VA

Ann B. Wheeler was elected Chair-At-Large of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors during the 2019 General Election and assumed office on Jan. 1, 2020. Prince William County is located 25 miles south of Washington, D.C., and is the Commonwealth of Virginia's second-most populous county with approximately 469,000 residents.

Over the past 19 years, Chair Wheeler has actively served the people of Prince William County. She spent the last 14 years (2005-2018) as a NOVEC board member and continues to be an active member of the Hylton Performing Arts Center board. She chaired the Prince William Board of Social Services, where she gained invaluable insight into the operations of the county government and budgeting process.

She is a graduate of Prince William County Community Leadership Institute and served a two-year term as President in 2018 of the Prince William Committee of 100, a non-partisan civic organization that provides a forum to raise awareness of county matters. Chair Wheeler has also served on various community and civic boards to include the Shelter Lakes Homeowners Association (2004-

2007), the Prince William County School Northern Boundary Committee (2005-2006), the Gainesville District Budget Committee (2005-2007), Board of Social Services (2006-2011) and Stonewall Middle School Advisory Council (2010-2011).

Prior to moving to Prince William County in 2001 with her husband, John, and two daughters, Chair Wheeler spent 15 years working and consulting in the energy industry. She graduated from Tufts University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and earned an MBA from the University of Chicago, specializing in Finance.

Arlington County Alternate

MATT DE FERRANTI

Board Member, Arlington County, VA

Matt de Ferranti's career, first as a teacher in a low-income community in Houston and later as a lawyer, has been dedicated to helping people build better lives for themselves and their children. As an attorney, Matt worked on land use and economic development issues for local governments. He subsequently served as an advocate for economic and educational equity at Feeding America, Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together, and the Education Trust. Matt was elected to the Arlington County Board in November 2018.

Matt began serving on Arlington County's Housing Commission in 2013. In 2014, he was appointed to the Arlington Public Schools Budget Advisory Council, where he served as Chair in 2017-2018. Matt also has served on the Joint Facilities Advisory Commission, which brings Arlington County, Arlington Public Schools, and the community together to plan for our future.

A 2015 Leadership Arlington graduate, 2016 graduate of the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership, and 2017 graduate of Arlington Neighborhood College, Matt grew up in neighboring McLean and lives in the Rock Spring neighborhood.

City of Fairfax Alternate

D. THOMAS (TOM) ROSS

Councilmember, City of Fairfax

Tom Ross is serving his first term on City Council with the City of Fairfax, VA. He has been actively involved in the City for more than 40 years serving on various boards and commissions. Professionally he served as an Assistant Director with the National Park Service, retiring in 2006 managing an array of conservation and recreation partnership programs including the Land and Water Conservation Fund. He also served as the Executive Director for the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association from 2006-2011. He's a native of eastern Pennsylvania and is a graduate of Northeastern University with a master's degree in Public Administration. Married with two grown children and a grandson, he enjoys biking, golf, and swimming in his spare time.

SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT MEMBERS

ONA BALKUS

Food Policy Director, District of Columbia

Ona Balkus was appointed by Mayor Muriel Bowser in August 2018 as the DC Food Policy Director to promote food access and equity, sustainability, and the local food economy in the District. In this role, she leads the DC Food Policy Council (FPC), a group of Mayoral-appointed leaders in the District's food system and representatives from 10 District agencies. Ona has spearheaded the FPC's publication of several major reports on food policy in the District, including the DC Food System Assessment (2018), the DC Food Economy Study (2019), the Make Food Work Strategy (2020), and the Food Access and Security Report: Responding to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (2020). During the public health emergency, Ona has convened government and non-profit food providers to coordinate and share resources. She has helped design the District's emergency feeding programs and worked with agency partners to adapt programs for school meals, senior meals, and public benefits.

Previously, Ona served as a Legislative Counsel for the DC Council's Committee on Transportation and the Environment, focused on food and nutrition policy, parks and recreation, clean water, and public works. In this role, Ona drafted several significant pieces of food-related legislation, including the Women, Infants, and Children Program Expansion Act of 2018 and the Healthy Students Amendment Act of 2018. Ona has also worked as a Senior Clinical Fellow at the Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic, where she provided guidance to food policy councils across the country working to improve their food systems. Ona holds a J.D. and Masters of Public Health from Harvard University and a B.A. from Tufts University, where she majored in Child Development.

HEATHER BRUSKIN

Executive Director, Montgomery County Food Council
Montgomery County, MD

As Executive Director of the Montgomery County Food Council, Heather leads the operational and strategic initiatives of the nonprofit organization, coordinating the contributions of the 8 staff, 400+ volunteer members of the Council, its Working Groups, and Board of Directors, and hundreds of community partner organizations toward our collective food system goals and achievements. Heather spent the first decade of her career as an administrator and program director at MIT, Georgetown University, and the University of Virginia. Prior to her work with the Food Council, Heather also served as President of multiple volunteer-driven community based organizations in Montgomery County focused on early childhood education and parent resources. Heather holds a B.A. from Tufts University and an M. Ed. from the University of Virginia. Heather serves as co-lead of the Montgomery County Food Security Task Force, and as a member of the FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program Board, CKC Farming Advisory Board, Montgomery County's Community Health Needs Assessment Advisory Committee and its Small Business Recovery Workgroup, and the Nonprofit Montgomery Advocacy Committee, and she is an active leader and volunteer in her community and local schools.

JEREMY V. CRISS

Director of Agricultural Services
Montgomery County, MD

Jeremy Criss has worked with the Maryland agricultural community since 1983. He worked in Baltimore County until 1988 administering farmland preservation programs.

Jeremy is the Director of the Montgomery County Office of Agriculture and is responsible for program coordination of the agricultural agencies offering technical and financial assistance to the farmers. He also oversees agricultural preservation, marketing and technical assistance programs.

These programs support the viability of agriculture for future generations while also providing new marketing opportunities. Jeremy holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland in Agricultural and Resource Economics and a master's degree from Towson State University in Business Administration and Management.

CONAWAY B. HASKINS III

Extension Specialist for Economic Development, Virginia Tech
Commonwealth of Virginia

Conaway B. Haskins III has spent over 15 years helping public and nonprofit organizations navigate economic development, higher education, and public policy challenges and opportunities at the local, state, and national levels. He currently serves as the statewide Extension Specialist for Economic Development at Virginia Tech where he initiates and leads a number of partnerships and programs for Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. He regularly provides applied research, policy advice and technical assistance to government, nonprofit, business, and academic stakeholders supporting entrepreneurship, placemaking, social innovation, and sustainable development. He is a Fellow of the VT Center for Leadership in Global Sustainability, the VT Center for Food Systems and Community Transformation, and a Faculty Affiliate of the VT Office of Economic Development. Conaway also serves as a Cooperative Extension faculty representative to the Virginia Tech University Council.

Conaway previously served as the first Executive Director of the Virginia Community Economic Network, and led a variety of efforts for Virginia State University, the Council on Foundations, US Senator Jim Webb, and the Cameron Foundation. He began his career as an economic and workforce development researcher at the Aspen Institute in Washington, DC. He earned a Masters of Regional Planning from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a B.A. in Government & Politics with honors & distinction from George Mason University. He serves on the board of directors of the Center for a Better South, as a member of the Virginia Tech University Council, on the Technical Advisory and Operations Committee of the Southern Rural Development Center, as an Innovation Facilitator for the National eXtension Foundation, and he is an active volunteer leader with the Virginia Economic Developers Association.

HEIDI HERTZ

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry
Commonwealth of Virginia

Heidi Hertz serves as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry for Governor Northam. Prior to her appointment, Heidi held roles in the Office of the First Lady of Virginia Dorothy McAuliffe, with the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth, and for the Virginia Department of Health.

Heidi serves as Chair of the Board of Directors for Shalom Farms and is active on the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Alumni Board. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Virginia Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and a Master of Science degree from James Madison University. She is a native of Lunenburg County and a resident of the City of Richmond.

KATE LEE

Director, Office of Urban Agriculture
District of Columbia

Kate Lee is the Director at the District's Office of Urban Agriculture within the DC Department of Energy and Environment. She holds a degree in Horticulture from the University of Georgia and has been farming in the District for a decade. In addition to shepherding the development of revenue-generating agricultural efforts in the District she is deeply committed to equity and community-informed decision making. Kate is the Co-Chair of the DC Food Policy Council's Urban Agriculture Working Group and the Event Chair for Rooting DC, the District's annual urban gardening forum. Kate was born in Germany and graduated high school on Honolulu. She lives in Lanier Heights, Adams Morgan, DC with her two cats, George and Guy.

HUGO MOGOLLON

Executive Director, FRESHFARM

Hugo is a results-oriented leader with twelve years of management experience in multicultural settings. He is the Executive Director of FRESHFARM, a nonprofit working to improve food access in the DC Metro Area while creating opportunities for farmers in the mid-Atlantic region.

Under Mr. Mogollon's leadership, FRESHFARM has developed a unique and innovative low-infrastructure food distribution model that connects historically underserved communities to sustainable, locally grown farm food, creating hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue for family farms.

Mr. Mogollon has a Masters in Natural Resources and Leadership from the Center for Leadership in Global Sustainability from Virginia Tech, where he concentrated on Collective Impact. He is proud to have served as the Chair of the Farmers Market's Coalition and a Board member of the Virginia Farmers Markets Association.

SARA POLLOCK HOVERTER

Senior Fellow and Adjunct Professor
Georgetown University

Sara Pollock Hoverter is a senior fellow and adjunct professor at the Harrison Institute for Public Law at Georgetown Law. Her areas of concentration are public health and climate policy, including supporting the transformation of food systems, increasing access to health care including oral health services, assisting local governments in protecting their most vulnerable residents from the public health and environmental impacts of heat in urban areas, and community health worker network development. Within the field of food policy, she has worked with school districts, hospitals, and other institutions around the country to enable them to buy more healthful, regionally sourced, and sustainably produced food. Her education includes a B.A. from Yale University, a J.D. from Georgetown University, and an LL.M. from Georgetown University. She lives in Takoma Park with her husband, two children, two dogs, and a vegetable garden.

JULIE OBERG

Deputy Secretary of Agriculture
State of Maryland

Julie Oberg was named deputy secretary of agriculture on Jan. 3, 2018. Oberg manages the day-to-day operations of the agency to help ensure that its programs continue to serve, promote and regulate the state's agriculture industry.

She has been with the State of Maryland since 2004, most recently serving as communications director for the Department of Agriculture. She has also been an active member of the Communications Officers of State Departments of Agriculture (COSDA) and served as the group's President from 2016-2017.

Oberg earned her Bachelor of Arts in Journalism with a minor in Spanish from the University of Maryland. She resides on a small farm in Calvert County with her husband and three children.

VICTORIA TRESKI

Senior Manager of Partner Engagement, Food Security Initiative
Bainum Family Foundation

Originally from Orlando, Florida, Victoria Treski is the Senior Manager of Partner Engagement in the Food Security Initiative at the Bainum Family Foundation. Victoria has worked to support child nutrition programming, international agriculture investments and regional food systems for ten years, having served on the Denver Food Policy Council and in the Peace Corps in Lesotho. Victoria moved to the District in 2015 to work for an international development organization, working closely with country-based staff to manage USAID funding in Bangladesh, the Republic of Georgia and Malawi. In her current capacity at the Bainum Family Foundation, Victoria works to support market-based food access organizations to improve healthy food investments, access and engagement in a dual effort to support the regional food system and communities in the District's Wards 7 and 8. Victoria holds a bachelor's in child development from the University of Georgia and a master's in international development and food security from the University of Denver.

CHRIS VAN VLACK

Urban/Ag Conservationist, Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District
Loudoun County, VA

Chris Van Vlack is the Urban/Ag Conservationist for Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District and has served on COG's Regional Ag Working Group since 2005. Chris also farms, operating Hanging Rock Hay & Grain a custom hay and small grain operation in Lovettsville. He served previously on the Virginia Young Farmers state committee representing the northern district of the Commonwealth and also on Loudoun's Rural Economic Development Council for many years. Chris has been on the Loudoun Farm Bureau's Board of Directors since 2008; serving as president of Loudoun Farm Bureau from 2016-2020.

MICHEAL J. WILSON

Executive Director, Maryland Hunger Solutions

Michael joined Maryland Hunger Solutions in July 2013 as Director. In this role, he is helping to lead Maryland's premier hunger advocacy, education, and outreach organization as it works to end hunger and improve the nutrition, health, economic security, and well-being of low-income families in Maryland. Michael serves in a leadership role in many statewide coalitions and is a core advisor in the Governor's Partnership to End Childhood Hunger.

For more than three decades, Michael has been a leading advocate for economic and social justice. He worked on Capitol Hill as a legislative and press assistant for the late U.S. Representative Charles Hayes (IL). He also served in numerous positions at the U.S. Department of Labor, culminating as Chief of Staff in the Employment Standards Administration where he coordinated legislative, regulatory, communications, and policy development. Michael also was an international officer and director at the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union where he headed the legislative and political department and led the union's efforts in food policy and worker advocacy. Michael served as a FRAC Board Member for more than a decade, as well as a Board Member for the Consumer Federation of America and Americans for Democratic Action, where he also served as National Director. He received the Community Human Rights Award from the United Nations Association of the National Capitol Area in 2009, the Secretary of Labor's Exceptional Achievement Award in 1997 and 1999, and a Special Commendation from the Wage and Hour Division in 1997.

Michael has a B.A. in communications arts and sciences from Michigan State University.