

Sandy Yamamoto

Board Member since January, 2007

Ms. Sandy Yamamoto began her affiliation with AWLA several years ago as a volunteer, primarily in special events. She joined the AWLA Board in January 2007 and also serves on various standing and ad-hoc committees, including Long-Term Planning Committee, Development Committee, Annual Dinner/Silent Auction Committee, Board Procedures and By-Laws, and Salary Review. Annually, she solicits the local Alexandria business community for auction item donations, program ads and sponsorships for the Annual Dinner/Silent Auction event, one of AWLA's two largest fundraising events. Additionally, she is very supportive of and can often be found at AWLA's other community events and fundraisers which benefit our efforts.

After a 30+ year career, Ms. Yamamoto retired from the U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration in September 2002, having served nearly the last 5 years as Chief of the Technical Compliance and Investigation Division, Coal Mine Safety and Health. As Chief, she was responsible for overseeing enforcement related functions pertaining to civil and criminal investigations, and coal miner discrimination investigations, and serving as the Criminal Enforcement Coordinator. With her subordinate staff, both locally and throughout the Nation's coal mining regions, she was responsible for investigating accidents, including mining fatalities, to determine if violations of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 warranted civil (administrative) or criminal pursuit (through referral to and in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Justice).

Ms. Yamamoto was the first woman to achieve the rank of Division Chief within Coal Mine Safety and Health, and also the first female to receive accreditation as a Coal Mine Safety and Health Special Investigator. She successfully completed Coal Mine Inspector Training at the National Mine Health and Safety Academy, where she subsequently instructed special investigators and other enforcement personnel over many years. Additionally, she pursued and achieved a degree in Business Management while continuing her full-time career. She was an active member of Federally Employed Women and Women in Mining. Ms. Yamamoto also received numerous special achievement awards, commendations and certificates of appreciation during her Federal career, including the National Holmes Safety Merit Award.

In addition to her work for AWLA, currently, Ms. Yamamoto belongs to the Brookville-Seminary Valley Civic Association, and furthers AWLA's cause by submitting events and information to the Seminary Valley columnist for publication in the *Alexandria Gazette Packet*. Ms. Yamamoto is also a member of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association.

Ms. Yamamoto and her husband Alan, an attorney, reside in Alexandria with their 4-legged children, Molly and Buddy, an AWLA graduate.