



Moreland Notre Dame

Paz Padilla, Chair

I was born in Guadalajara Jalisco, Mexico and immigrated to the United States at the age of 2 years old. I grew up in Watsonville, California and attended Mintie White Elementary School from K-4th grade. After several attempts, I was able to get accepted at Moreland Notre Dame, which opened the door for my siblings to join MND. I graduated in 1988 and a recipient as the MVP in girls Basketball. I moved on to Watsonville High School graduating in 1992 and moving to San Luis Obispo graduating from Cuesta College and obtaining an AS in Business August 2000. I started my employment with Catholic Charities Diocese of Monterey in August 2000 as an Immigration Specialist, serving San Luis Obispo County. In 2013 moved back to Watsonville to serve communities in San Benito, Santa Cruz and Monterey. In 2017, I became Assistant Director for the Immigration Department. In 2013, I was offered to serve on the Board or Director of Santa Cruz Community Action Board; I have been serving as the Chair position since 2015. In 2014, I was invited to sit on the MND Board of Directors, which I humbly serve as a Chair. I am deeply grateful to the Sisters of Notre Dame for sharing with me and my siblings the best two legacies: Faith and Education. Gracias

Tracy Ruelas-Hashimoto, Vice Chair (Executive Committee; Finance Committee; Nominations Committee)

Tracy Ruelas-Hashimoto has been part of the Moreland Notre Dame community for over 19 years. She and her husband are the parents of a son in sixth grade and three older daughters who attended Moreland Notre Dame School. They co-chair the Book Fair and coordinate the Chess Club at the school. Tracy was born in Watsonville and attended San Jose State University where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration for Accounting. She is currently the Controller for Santa Cruz County Bank. Tracy serves on the Executive, Finance, and Nomination Committees. [other board's]

John Kane IV, Secretary

Johnny Kane graduated from Moreland Notre Dame in 2001. He attended San Jose State University obtaining a degree in business finance. Johnny is a commercial insurance broker with KBK Insurance in Watsonville. He has been active with the

Moreland Notre Dame athletic program for 13 years serving as head coach of the 8th grade boys' basketball team. Johnny currently is a part of the executive and finance committees.

Jacob Dobler, Treasurer

Jacob Dobler is an alumni of Moreland Notre Dame School and graduated in 2009. His family has a long history with the school dating back to the 1950's. His great-grandmother was one of the original founders of the Mother's Guild. Jacob has remained involved at Moreland Notre Dame School and an active member of the Alumni & Friends committee. He graduated from St. Francis High School in 2013 and from Cabrillo College in 2015 with an AS in Business Management. He is currently the Controller for the family company, Dobler & Sons, LLC. Jacob is an active participant in other community organizations and currently serves as a board member of The Jean & Ed Kelly Foundation. He is dedicated to giving back to his community and Moreland Notre Dame, the school that gave him so much during his years there. Jacob serves on the Executive, Finance, and Policy & Planning Committees.

Emily Balli

Emily Balli is a lifelong resident of Watsonville and a graduate of Moreland Notre Dame. Emily is currently employed by the County of Santa Cruz as the Division Director of the Employment and Benefits Services Division of the Human Services Department. She taught catechism for 6 years at St. Patrick's for both First Communion and Confirmation preparation. Emily and her husband Victor have 3 grown daughters and 2 grandchildren. Emily is new to the board and is excited to give back to her former school.

Maria Elena De La Garza

MariaElena De La Garza has over 26 years of experience in nonprofit work and is currently the Executive Director of the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County. She holds a dual Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology and Chicano Studies from Scripps College in Claremont California and also has had extensive leadership development and training experience including Bank of America National Leadership Program, United Way Leadership for Community Transformation and was recently invited to participate in the Stanford University Nonprofit Management Institute by the Packard Foundation. MariaElena has

passion for building community networks, leadership in action, and solution based strategies, with years of experience serving on various boards for local nonprofits. MariaElena believes in community outreach, culturally respectful services, program development and inclusiveness to support and increase equity for all members of the community. MariaElena applies her experience leading nonprofits to her work on the MND board and believes that the school was instrumental in building the foundation of success for so many in the community. Her parents, her mother from Jalisco Mexico and her Texan dad taught her about hard work and a commitment to service. She was born and raised in Watsonville and is completely committed to increasing access and services that will support community success. She still lives in the neighborhood where she grew up with her hunny, Marc and her pooch.

Christ Enright

Katie Kelly (Marketing & Development Committee; Alumni & Friends Committee)

Katie Kelly became a part of the Moreland Notre Dame family upon moving to Watsonville in August of 2005. Her husband, Ed, and their three children are all graduates of Moreland Notre Dame School. Katie, a former elementary school teacher and special education teacher, has been involved at Moreland Notre Dame as a long-time volunteer, a coach, a former Parent Club President, and as a member of the Alumni & Friends Committee. She values her own Catholic education and continues to be an integral part in fostering the betterment of all aspects of Moreland Notre Dame School. As a new member to the school board, Katie is currently working to advance marketing and enrollment strategies, as she serves as the Marketing and Development Committee Chair. To Katie, Moreland Notre Dame is a FAMILY of kind, caring, supportive, and energetic people. She feels very blessed to be a part of such a wonderful community of people.

Patrick Lee (Policy & Planning Committee; Marketing Committee)

Patrick Lee is the President and Principal of St. Francis High School - Salesian College Preparatory here in Watsonville. He is in his 6th year at St. Francis in this capacity, and prior to coming to the central coast he worked at St. John Bosco High School in southern California for 23 years, the last 9 of which he was Principal. He and his wife, Erica, are current parents of an 8th grade boy and they have been directly involved with athletics and development activities at the school.

Lizette Ponce

Christy Siefke

Christy was an active parent at Moreland Notre Dame from 1995 when her daughter, Elizabeth began kindergarten and continued until her son Jacob graduated from eighth grade in 2007. During her time as a parent at Moreland Notre Dame she held a variety of positions including, Mothers' Guild President, Vice President, Treasurer and Fundraising chair. In 2004 she was awarded the Jean Johnson Service Award by the Notre Dame Student Council. When her daughter began St. Francis in 2004, she founded the Athletic Booster's Club and remained the president of the club until 2011 when her son graduated. Christy is also involved in raising funds for ALS research. Christy was born and raised in Watsonville and attended local schools. In 1986, she graduated from San Jose State University with a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration. She has worked at Pacific Inland Financial in Soquel for 30 years. Christy enjoys traveling and spending time with her family.

Fr. Robby Sullivan

Nadia Vargas

Nadia Vargas is an alumni of Moreland Notre Dame School and graduated in 1997. She has previously coached the cheerleading squad when attending high school. Nadia received her undergraduate degree from Saint Mary's College of California and received a master's in Taxation at San Jose University. She is a Certified Public Accountant and a Senior Manager at Ryan & McDonald located in Salinas. Sitting on the Finance committee will provide Nadia with the opportunity to give back to Moreland Notre Dame.