**LaWana Heald**

**Pacific Southwest Regional Director Nominee**



Hello fellow HOPE AACR members, my name is LaWana Heald and was appointed in January 2013 by the Board of Directors to step in as Regional Director of the Pacific Southwest Region as Claudine Singer stepped down after 3 years of wonderful leadership. I was able to accept the position as I retired in September 2012 and now have more time to devote to volunteer work. I have been a member of HOPE since 2010 with my 12 year old Yellow Labrador Anise and just this October I went through the workshop with a second dog, my 3 year old yellow lab/golden retriever cross, Robby. During my 3 years with HOPE I have served on many Callouts and community events together with Anise and now that she is a senior, my second dog Robby is stepping in to assist her with the more physically challenging events.

I have been blessed to have such a wonderful dog in Anise and now Robby. The work I do with them as Therapy Dogs and in HOPE is extremely rewarding. I have met so many wonderful, caring and dedicated people in HOPE and being the facilitator as my dogs comfort those in need touches my heart. I am passionate about fulfilling HOPE's Mission and I am glad to be a part of such a worthwhile group.

2013 has been a busy and challenging year for PSW with several significant Callouts and a successful Workshop that welcomed 7 new members and 4 current members certifying with a second dog. I have been honored to serve as your leader this past year and I appreciate each and every one of you for your support and service.