

MCOA News

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Notes from the Executive Director: Late March 2008

Please Circulate to Your Staff

NISC State Association Award: As reported earlier, MCOA has been selected to receive the National Institute of Senior Center's (NISC) and the National Council on Aging's "State Association Award" for being the best... A delegation from MCOA is traveling to Washington D.C. to receive this honor on Friday, March 28th at the joint ASA/NCOA national conference. Details to follow.....

NISC Accreditation: Congratulations to the Groton COA for achieving national accreditation status. And congrats the Newton COA who successfully became 're-accredited'.

House Chairs Appointed: House Speakers Salvatore F. DiMasi has appointed two legislators to leadership positions as the chair and vice chair on the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs. **The House Chair will be Kathi-Anne Reinstein of Revere and; Louis L. Kafka of Stoughton to vice chairman.** Both of these individuals have long supported elder issues and we hope we can continue to count on their support as we begin the FY09 Budget process.

Communications: Please remember when contacting MCOA by email please put in the subject line MCOA so you are not inadvertently deleted. All communications from MCOA include our acronym in the subject line item. Contact us at David@mcoaonline.com or Janiece@mcoaonline.com

Presidential Debate: NCOA's Public Policy Update February 22, 2008 Volume 2, Issue #3 **Senators. Clinton and Obama Respond to Aging Questionnaire** NCOA is currently chairing the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO), a broad coalition of national groups engaged in advocacy on aging issues. In late 2007, LCAO asked the leading presidential contenders to answer a set of questions about aging policy matters, including Medicare, long-term care, and Older Americans Act funding. Out of all the candidates, only Senators. Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, and John Edwards (responded). Read Clinton's and Obama's answers at http://www.lcao.org/survey_answers.htm LCAO makes no endorsement of any candidate and provides these responses as a way of enabling American voters to gain a perspective on the candidates.

The Great Debate x 4: MCOA has spent the last year debating four pieces of legislation that will have a dramatic impact on our Commonwealth. At the March 14th Advisory Council we revisited the following and sought additional input from our membership. These bills will be discussed again (and potentially voted on) at our scheduled Board Meeting April 18th:

- Should the Commonwealth adopt Governor Patrick's Proposal on Casino Gambling?
- Should the Commonwealth allow local communities to exempt low and moderate income seniors from Prop 2 ½ Overrides?
- Should Seniors be required to submit to driving tests at a certain age?
- Should the Commonwealth repeal the state income tax?

We recognize that there is no clear consensus within our membership on the first three issues but we felt we should at least raise the concerns that have been expressed to the legislators who are crafting these bills. Your input is requested. Send to david@mcoaonline.com

In line with this discussion, we have enclosed 4 pages in this newsletter detailing the legislative debate on Chairman Binienda and Rep. Balser's bill exempting seniors from overrides. Enjoy!

Included in the Mailing:

- **Next Steps in the FY09 Budget Process: We need your help!**
- **Extensive Debate on House 2840: Senior Exemption from Overrides**
- **Message from MassPro, and Mass Bar Association about available speakers for your Senior Center**
- **Fraud Alerts from EOE A**
- **Q&A regarding the New Economic Stimulus Package and Seniors from AARP**
- **AN Updated MCOA Calendar including new Save the Dates for**
 - Mass Senior Action Day April 14th**
 - Alzheimer's Association Annual Conference May 14th**
 - 19th Annual Western MA Eldercare Conference May 20th**
 - Mass Home Care Silver Anniversary Meeting June 16th**
- **Registration forms for Massachusetts State Fall Prevention Symposium May 15th**
- **Registration forms for the Spring Regional Keep Moving Walks**
- **Registration for the Massachusetts Gerontology Association Annual Meeting**

MCOA Legislative Alert: FY09 Budget- Next Steps

As we await the delivery of the House Ways and Means budget-expected in the second week of April, MCOA wanted to remind everyone of what the next steps would be:

1. The HWM Budget is released- usually mid-week with a short window to file "floor amendments."
2. The Advisory Council on March 14th recommended that if we are level funded, we pursue a floor amendment, because as Advocates we should always keep trying. Note: the House, Senate and Governor agreed upon a local aide increase is 4.4% and that would translate into \$350,000 if our Line Item #9110-9002 Local Aid to Councils on Aging is included in that calculation. We are hoping for \$650,000 to raise the formula grant from \$6.50-\$7/elder/YEAR. Once the budget is released the Board will decide 'how to proceed'- but be ready for a floor fight- Our track record has been excellent up until now during the floor amendment phase.
3. **Thus assuming the line item #9110-9002 is level funded, we will need to find a "Lead Sponsor" who will file an amendment by the deadline. Last year, another difficult year, we had 4 lead sponsors with 93 total co-sponsors supporting the full \$7/elder. That was the deciding factor to grant us any increase at all.**
4. **Once the Sponsor is identified and has filed the amendment, other members of the House have less than 48 hours to sign on and be listed as co-sponsors.**
5. **MCOA will identify the lead sponsor by email and we will need all of you to contact your Representatives to "go to the House Clerk's office and sign the amendment book". They must sign it to count.**
6. We predict that there will be several different amendments filed supporting us and that is ok MCOA will track and compile a final list for distribution and posting within your senior center.
7. If your Rep declines- Be polite and ask why- we can also learn. Some do not do amendments –some might concentrate on only a few.
8. As we began this budget cycle, our original goal was for a \$650,000 increase for Formula Grant and an additional \$600,000 for technology. But given the Commonwealth's fiscal health, we will 'settle' for the \$650,000 which translates to \$7/elder/YEAR.
9. **THUS starting today call your Representatives**
 - a. **Ask them if they (still) support our request to increase our line item #9110-9002, Local Aide to COAs- to \$8,535,000 or \$7/elder/YEAR**
 - b. **If they do, will they be willing to offer a floor amendment if needed or be a co-sponsor-try to get a firm commitment. Please forward all this information to david@mcoaonline.com**
 - c. **Be ready once the Budget is released to re-contact your Representative with details about signing on as a co-sponsor.**
10. **If everyone follows thru on these 10 steps over the next three weeks we will be able to achieve our goal of \$7/elder/YEAR. NUMBERS COUNT! Get your Rep on board today!**

MCOA Legislative Alert continued: Property Tax Relief

The Massachusetts House has passed the following bill by a vote of 111-34. The Advisory Council and the MCOA Property Tax Task Force has expressed concerns and are drafting a recommendation for MCOA Board discussion at our April 18th Board meeting. We invite members to send comments to david@mcoonline.com prior to that meeting.

House, No. 2840: BILL TO CREATE AN EXEMPTION FOR LOW-INCOME SENIORS FROM PROPOSITION TWO AND ONE HALF OVERRIDES.

Substituted by the House, Representatives Binienda of Worcester and Balsler of Newton, for a bill with the same title (House, No. 2840). February 13, 2008. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts _____ In the Year Two Thousand and Eight. _____

AN ACT TO CREATE AN EXEMPTION FOR LOW-INCOME SENIORS FROM PROPOSITION TWO AND ONE HALF OVERRIDES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 5 of chapter 59 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following clause: —

Fifty-second A, (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, any homeowner who meets the criteria described in subsection (b) shall receive an abatement of an amount equal to any increase in property taxes attributable to the provisions of paragraphs (g),(i½),(j) and (k) of section 21C.

(b) The criteria for eligibility for this abatement shall be as follows: The property for which the abatement is sought must be owned by a person 65 years of age or over and occupied by him as his domicile, or owned jointly with his spouse, either of whom is 65 years of age or over, and occupied as their domicile, or by a person who owns the same jointly or as a tenant in common with a person not his spouse and occupied by him as his domicile. No abatement shall be granted unless: (1) said owner had, in the preceding year, gross receipts from all sources not in excess of \$60,000; provided, however, that in computing the gross receipts of an applicant under this clause, ordinary business expenses and losses may be deducted, but not personal or family expenses; and (2) the real estate tax payment exceeds 10% of the taxpayer's gross receipts. Notwithstanding any provision of this section, or any other general or special law to the contrary, this abatement shall be available in addition to any other abatement which a homeowner may receive.

This clause shall take effect in any city or town upon its acceptance by such city or town for fiscal years commencing on or after July first, 2008, or for fiscal years commencing on or after such later July first as the city or town may elect; provided, however, that, notwithstanding any provision of this section or any other general or special law to the contrary, this section may be revoked or suspended for the following fiscal year by the same manner by which it was originally adopted.

Commentary on Passage of House 2840 from State House News

HOUSE SESSION – THURSDAY, FEB. 28, 2008

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PROPOSITION 2 ½ EXEMPTION: Question came on H 4534 creating an exemption for certain person from Prop 2 ½ overrides.

Rep. Peterson said, I hope the following bill is not engrossed. This legislation talks about exempting seniors with less than \$60,000 in income and the property taxes of more than 10 percent of their income, will be exempted from Proposition 2 ½ if the community adopts this legislation. There is no tie-in for that exemption to last the life of a debt exclusion. Say it's for a new high school that costs \$200 million. The community passes the bill with the help and acquiescence of the seniors who, under this, would not have to pay for it. The balance of that money would then be shifted to the rest of the taxpayers. There are other groups in the community who are faced with those same challenges on a daily basis. Whether it's young families with a mortgage or education bills, a lot of those people now are going to be paying their share of that new tax placed on them for a Proposition 2 ½ override and the additional tax of those seniors who are exempt. One of the basic premises of Proposition 2 ½ was that if you were to raise the taxes of individuals

MCOA Legislative Alert: Commentary on House 2840 continued

across the communities, it would take convincing and be a worthwhile cause and that all the people who pay that tax would be able to weigh in. The proponents of that tax increase would have to make their case. This bill is trying to give comfort to make the decision easier for a group of citizens that generally go to the polls and generally know the issues and in some cases, and in a lot of cases, they haven't supported a lot of the override questions. The gentlelady that has filed this legislation, I think is trying to do something for that group of individuals. She's heard from that group of constituents and has filed this legislation. I haven't had that group of constituents in my community ask me to do this. Not on a broad spectrum. It's a fairly radical change to Proposition 2 ½ to keep the local property tax down to a reasonable level. Why are we doing this on a statewide basis? Why wasn't the author of this doing it as a home rule petition to allow that community to move in that direction? Talking with some of my seniors over the last couple of weeks, when I explained the problems with the legislation, they said thank you for voting that way. They're concerned about, in essence, that the town can grant the abatement one year and get out of it the next. They're concerned about the application process because if you're going to file for an abatement, you're going to have to show your income. The only feasible way to show your income is to show your tax returns, usually. A lot of seniors aren't that willing to share that information. This brings about another question. Generally our tax returns are private. Those individuals who want to release it can. If that is how an individual has to prove their income level to get the abatement, the question arises, is that now public information? Could other individuals now access that information because it's been offered by an individual? It's a legitimate concern. I applaud the lady for trying to do something for her community and her constituents. I wish that we weren't dealing with this on a statewide basis. Being the brave souls that we are, all we're doing is passing the buck along. It really sounds good that I can give my seniors that abatement. Say the town decides to take the abatement away, those individuals are going to have to deal with the consequences. To me, Mr. Speaker, this bill is replete with problems, and I would urge the membership not to pass it.

Rep. Humason said, I remember getting up a couple weeks ago. This is like déjà vu. This effort is a very cynical attempt to do an end-run around Proposition 2 ½. Members know that it is the sole reason our taxes haven't risen even higher. I was reading the paper yesterday. The Boston Herald had an article about the cost of living in Massachusetts. Heating oil is up, gasoline, medical costs, food and beverage, housing, apparel is up. The only thing that's gone down is electricity. Auto insurance rates have gone down a little bit. The cost of living in Massachusetts is staggering. It's one of the main reasons we experience flight. It's too expensive to stay. Passing this bill is going to shift the burden onto remaining taxpayers. The young families, the ones with kids and with police and firefighters. Anyone left who isn't older or exempt in this bill is going to be paying even more. They're going to come back at you come election time. They're not going to be happy that we continue to pass the burden onto them. I want to be welcome when I go to the Council on Aging. This bill doesn't even guarantee them protections. What if they forget to apply, or what if we take away that exemption. I use the word cynical, I use the word end-run, because that's what we're doing. It will just make this state more expensive.

Rep. Balser said, The gentleman who preceded me to the rostrum accused me of being cynical. My friend should know about cynicism because in 1980 when Barbara Anderson and her friends put this on the ballot, she included a question about property tax relief an income tax deduction for tenants. Why would an income tax deduction for tenants appear in a question for property tax relief? She is projecting onto this bill what she projected onto the public in 1980. This bill is not about Newton only. It does, as many of our bills, rise out of my experience with my constituents. This legislation you heard last week, the gentleman from Norwood and the lady from Wellesley, because they want this opportunity as well. The seniors understand that this will give them a chance at property tax relief. I will take some exception to the snide remarks about my city and about our attempt to build a world-class high school. This bill, however, is not about the high school, the mayor of Newton, or the city of Newton. This bill is a local option. As for shifting the tax burden onto other voters, I have in front of me, page after page of chapter 59 of tax abatements. There are 52 similar exemptions coming right before it. Property tax exemptions for veterans, for blind people, for elderly. The exemption right before it is for seniors. Does each of these abatements shift the burden to the other taxpayers? I suppose so. Rep. Balser declined to yield for a question.

Rep. Balser said, We have 52 property tax abatements. That's a choice the community can make. Another argument offered by Rep. Peterson is that there are other families with similar problems. There is something unique about a senior who faces this challenge. It's different for someone who has moved into a community more recently. It's different for someone who wants to age in place. This bill is a local option for seniors because we want to allow our seniors to remain in the community. We don't want to do as the former lieutenant governor said, 'let them move.' We want to give them a break. I would ask my friends to vote as they did last week to create a local option for this state. Give one more tax abatement to the other 52. That's a value I'm proud to stand by.

Rep. Hill said, I have a question no one has answered. You've got two neighbors. One has \$65,000. They have to go to the assessment office and verify their income. Is an income tax return a public record? I don't think it's a question that's unreasonable.

Rep. Binienda said, I hope that H 4534 is passed to be engrossed. The main thing that I want you to remember about this bill is it's a local option. It's not statewide. I want you to remember that it's an elderly abatement. And it's not for all of the elderly in the commonwealth. It's for the elderly that are at the most vulnerable stages of their lives. The bill would exceed 10 percent of their income. It is for the people who are 65 years of age and older. It is for the people that need our help. It is for the people whose income does not exceed \$65,000. No matter which way you go for abatement, there is always going to be someone who falls a little bit over or a little bit under. We're not doing this for seniors who make a large amount of money. We want to let the people of the greatest generation remain with dignity in the confines of their entire state. \$65,000, as you know, is not a lot of money. I'm asking the members of this House to show compassion. I hope the bill is passed to be engrossed.

MCOA Legislative Alert: Commentary on House 2840 continued

Rep. Binienda asked that vote be taken by a call of the yeas and nays. There was support.

Rep. Poirier said, I have been interested in this debate. I ask that we not support this particular bill. My reasons are multiple. Let me begin by asking you, we have had an issue that we discussed quite a long time, and that's all of our families across the commonwealth facing difficult times. We have so many young families in this commonwealth that are struggling. I hear from them all the time. They are getting oil deliveries between five and six hundred dollars every week. The gas prices to commute, even the MBTA is more. We are living in very difficult times in this commonwealth. I think that we are a very generous state. We work hard to take care of our seniors and veterans. We have been very kind and generous to all of those groups. There are many exemptions for our senior citizens that will help them with their real estate tax. In spite of the fact that it's a local option bill, it's our responsibility to decide state tax policy. This is our decision to make. Don't think that because you're not making the decision to each community out there that you have shifted the responsibility to them. You will be held responsible for the decision they make. We are helping our seniors. We should not be helping our seniors and putting a whole other class of people in jeopardy. I understand that the sponsor of this bill in her heart feels it's the right thing, but we have a different point of view. Our seniors aren't living in these communities for 40 or 50 years. Our young families haven't necessarily just moved in. Let us not add to their burden today and take part in adding to class warfare. It is everyone's responsibility to take part in the community in which they live. Whatever improvements are made to the community are everyone's responsibility. They have a voice, either at town meeting or through a city council. If they disagree with somebody, they get a vote. Don't take away the voice of the young people in the community. Please don't pass this vote.

Rep. Hargraves said, It always bothers me when Proposition 2 ½ again, as it did a couple years ago, gets an attack on it. What hasn't been pointed out here, communities have the opportunity to have seniors work off \$600 of their real estate taxes by working 100 hours for \$6 an hour. Seniors can have their taxes deferred, either part or all. There's fuel assistance -- \$750. There is assistance on electric light bills. Maybe I'm safely assuming that this bill does not include or exclude a debt exclusion. There are things available to keep seniors in their homes. It can be done to keep seniors in their homes. I don't want to do it on the backs of the younger taxpayers. I have them in my own communities. This bill is wrought with abuse. This legislation will be very very easy -- it's not rocket science to abuse this. Thank you.

Rep. Jones said, The lady from Newton has talked about how she's filed this bill year after year after year. The bill before us was just showed to members two weeks ago. The lady said this bill is similar to the exemptions granted already. The fact is, she made one specific reference to exemption 52. That was the only other exemption that related to something that could be voted on under Proposition 2 ½. Which is a way that if a town wanted to include water and sewer bill on Proposition 2 ½ they could and get an indirect subsidy. That provision is for up to \$200 and for people who make less than \$15,000. My guess is that is a pretty narrow set. We're purporting that this exemption is very similar to all 52. I read the bill, and I raised the question about getting an abatement after the exemption is approved. Until the outcome of that abatement is determined, there's going to be a lot of filing for an abatement. The other question I raised is that if a city or town adopts this exemption, they can come back a year later and undo this amendment. If a town adopts this exemption, is it relative to every override? It says equal to any increase in property taxes attributable for those paragraphs. Or does the town have the option to exempt people for specific overrides. I think this adds to the concern that I have that towns will get in and out and seniors will be whipsawed back and forth. The bill before us has been around for two weeks. A concept had a hearing, this bill didn't.

Rep. L'Italien said, I rise in support of the bill. I am the co-chair of the Elder Affairs Caucus. We have a brand new chair. I have to say that property tax relief is among the top three things we hear at our committee. I'm comfortable with this bill because it is a local option. This is a local option bill. I have six communities, some who would want to use this and others who wouldn't. I might have preferred that we expand the circuit breaker. We are trying to recognize that we have seniors who cannot afford to pay for these overrides. For those who meet the criteria that we set forth, we are offering another option. I am in support of this bill.

Rep. Peterson said, I thank the lady for her comments who preceded me. Property tax relief is one of two things, property taxes don't go up, or the property taxes levied on that community goes down. This bill does neither except for a small group of individuals. Property tax relief is if you can reduce that rate so that everyone gets some relief or that the rate remains stable. If we're going to say that people on a fixed income who are on \$60,000, I know some young families like that. All these other exemptions or abatements already cost an awful lot of money. We send money back to the cities and towns to make up for losses in revenue. This bill is fraught with peril and flaws.

Rep. Rogeness said, We've heard a lot about young families and the greatest generation. Should this not be income-based rather than age-based? We hear about fixed income. I have a handwritten letter from a constituent. It says, I saw an article about tax relief for people who are receiving Social Security. I asked the tax office about this help but they said I needed to be 65 years old. This is a very poor woman on Social Security who said earlier that \$60,000 is not a lot of money. She goes on to say the wind is blustery and cold and my fireplace doesn't want to help me out. This is a handwritten letter from a woman who cannot easily pay the taxes she is

MCOA Legislative Alert: Commentary on House 2840 continued

assessed. Her taxes would go up until four more years passed. The money that these people who do qualify don't pay does come from the other people. Before this is adopted, everybody's taxes go into the overlay account. Once this is adopted and the account is drained, the money the next year will be paid the taxpayers who are paying. Money is fungible. The money has to be provided by the other taxpayers.

Rep. Scaccia asked to be and was recorded as present.

The chair said, Another roll call on land taking is expected as soon as this roll call is done.

BY A ROLL CALL VOTE OF 111-34 THE BILL WAS PASSED TO BE ENACTED

STATE CAPITOL BRIEFS- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2008

STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

SENATOR: PROP 2 ½ EXEMPTION BILL MEETING OPPOSITION IN THE SENATE

A proposal allowing cities and towns to exempt some senior citizens from Proposition 2 ½ override costs is meeting a variety of objections in the Senate, a key senator said Wednesday. "I am not clear that it is going to come out of the Senate," said Sen. Cynthia Creem (D-Newton), co-chair of the Committee on Revenue, which reviews tax bills, noting that some of the opposition arose from the bill's perceived intention to "circumvent" Proposition 2 ½. Opponents contend that removing the threat of a tax increase for elderly residents would suppress turnout during major override votes and shift the increase onto other potentially vulnerable residents. The bill (H 4534), filed by Rep. Ruth Balser (D-Newton) and supported by Creem, would enable cities and towns to exempt from override tax increases senior citizens earning less than \$60,000 and paying more than a tenth of their income in property taxes. Proponents argue that the proposal would enable seniors to remain in their communities even as their property values appreciate to unaffordable levels. "Past administrations have made reference to, 'well the seniors can move out,' but I think an intergenerational community is very beneficial to the community," Creem said. "I would do anything to keep those seniors, particularly those low-income seniors, still in their communities." Creem's warning of about the bill's future in the Senate comes on the heels of a Citizens for Limited Taxation memo to senators reminding them of their branch's history of protecting Proposition 2 ½. "Many bills were filed during the '80s to amend [Proposition 2 1/2] . . . Few of the damaging amendments passed; some that did pass the House were stopped in the Senate," the memo read. "Later, a bill exempting seniors from overrides passed the House but not the Senate. We hope this will happen again with H 4534, which is intended to get more overrides passed, raising property taxes on working families, homeowners with giant mortgages, and under-65s on fixed incomes."

STATE CAPITOL BRIEFS- THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2008

STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

PATRICK: PROP 2 ½ EXEMPTION BILL NEEDS MORE ANALYSIS

Proponents of a bill allowing cities and towns to exempt certain senior citizens from Proposition 2 ½ override costs not only have to worry about concerns from senators, but potentially the governor now, too. Gov. Deval Patrick said Thursday he wants to look at the proposal, which the House has endorsed. "One of the parts of the analyses we have to do is to see what the impact is on local communities, if seniors are categorically exempt from 2 ½ overrides, because that may only exacerbate the fiscal issues that towns are facing, which means it comes back to my desk," Patrick said on his monthly radio appearance on WTKK 96.9FM. But he added that he was "very sympathetic" on the impact of the overrides on seniors and others on limited incomes. Patrick noted that he has proposed "more across-the-board measures that get some relief for everybody," including eliminating the telecommunications property tax exemption on telephone poles and giving cities and towns the options of a meals tax. "We have to focus on this," he said. "Frankly, it worries me some that the Legislature, having said no so far to every one of those proposals, are all about to go off and campaign in the summer without having very much to say about what we have delivered for local communities." Some argue that the bill (H 4534), sponsored by Rep. Ruth Balser (D-Newton), could dampen turnout during override votes. The bill allows seniors earning less than \$60,000 and paying more than a tenth of their income in property taxes to be exempted by cities and towns.

STATE CAPITOL BRIEFS- TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2008

STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

SENATE ELDER AFFAIRS LEADER DOUBTFUL ABOUT PROP 2 ½ EXEMPTIONS

The Senate's Elder Affairs Committee chair Patricia Jehlen said Tuesday she would not advocate that the Senate pass a House-approved measure to exempt certain seniors from Proposition 2 ½ overrides costs. Jehlen said seniors in Winchester, which she represents, called the measure "very divisive" and that many other worthy exemptions already existed for elderly residents. Jehlen noted that tax deferral, a little-used option for elders, already enables low-income senior citizens to delay tax payments until they sell their houses. The bill, which has a local option mechanism, "wouldn't end up being passed" by municipalities, Jehlen said. The measure, sponsored by Rep. Ruth Balser, would enable cities and towns to exempt from Proposition 2 ½ overrides seniors making less than \$60,000 a year and paying more than 10 percent of their income toward property taxes. Supporters contend the bill would provide much-needed relief to enable seniors to live in their communities through the end of their lives. Opponents argue that the bill is an "end-run" around Proposition 2 ½ that would keep seniors – traditionally skeptical of override costs – at home during votes and would shift extra costs onto younger, equally vulnerable taxpayers.

MCOA Briefs: Transitions & Announcements

New Directors: MCOA welcomes the following new Director. We encourage Directors of neighboring towns & Regional Representatives to contact Donna and introduce yourself to:

- Donna Hartlage Florida COA

If you are new please contact MCOA and we will list your name in the next newsletter and send you a New Director's Manual. Email us at Janiece@mcoaonline.com

MCOA Briefs: Member Requests

Van License Plates: We have a new van and want to put handicapped plates on it because we transport handicapped seniors to medical appointments. We have problems getting close to an entrance without using handicapped parking. The handicapped spaces are also wider and easier for our drivers to use the van's lift for anyone in a wheelchair. Our Town Administrator wants a Livery plate on the van instead of a Handicapped plate. Has anyone else had this problem? Pat Sicard Granby Senior Center pats@granbyma.org

Budget Cuts-Need Help: I am facing budget cuts, which could mean the elimination of my Assistant director, the only other full time employee. My only other employee works (other than my van drivers) works only 12 hours a week. What do other people do to maintain coverage at the Senior Center when the Director is sick, or takes a vacation. I could manage with some one part time, but they seem adamant about eliminating the position. I am looking for some type of direction. Marcia Cairns Director West Boylston Council on Aging, 127 Hartwell St. West Boylston, Ma 01583 mcairns@westboylston.com

Senior Center Participant Policies: I would appreciate hearing from other COAs/Senior Centers about how you deal with seniors falling asleep at the center. Of course, a lot depends on the situation. There might be that person who nods off for a few minutes during a movie and then wakes up. My question is more about chronic, heavy sleepers. Do you have a ban on sleeping? Is it written or verbal? Other thoughts, experiences?? Thanks for any input. Eileen Ginnetty Cambridge COA eginnetty@CambridgeMA.GOV

Nutrition Programs: Here at the Middleborough COA we are trying to build our congregate meal program. We cook our own meals, we do MOWs and we receive government commodities. Could other COAs who are in the same situation share their successes? What are your favorite menu items? What incentives have you used? What type of marketing works best? What do you charge? We have a full house for some menus and some days are dismal. Are there foods to be sure to include and others to avoid? Thank you very much in advance. Andrea M. Priest Executive Director Middleborough Council on Aging 558 Plymouth Street Middleborough, MA. 02346 Phone 508-946-2490 Fax 508-946-2489 apriest@middleborough.com

Nutrition Program II: Can COA's that cook their own meals share with me who they use to purchase their food? Has anyone done any comparative shopping? We have been having a lot of trouble with damaged food and expired food being delivered. Would like to hear of a great company, with great customer service and great prices. Does such a company exist? (We purchase as much commodities as possible from Original Pizza, with no problem) Carolyn Brennan East Longmeadow COA cbrennan@eastlongmeadowma.gov

“Nutrition Program III: Continental Breakfast” I'm looking for the best way possible, without causing mayhem, to offer muffins/bagels, free, every morning to seniors with their coffee, without one or two seniors taking the entire plate. We currently have an agreement with a company who graciously is willing to donate the muffins/bagels on a monthly basis. Any thoughts? **Tracy M. Nowicki Director City of Chelsea Elder Affairs 10 Riley Way Chelsea, MA 02150 617-466-4370 (w) 617-466-4379 (f) TNowicki@chelseama.gov**

Scan Card Problem: We are now using the myseniorcenter.com which uses a scan card system.....when you attend a class or activity you scan your card, which eliminates a book or sign up sheet and that person is then posted as attending. We have one senior who refuses to use the card or any longer sign a book (his reasoning is unreasonable). Has any other senior center run into this problem, and if so, how did you handle it. Thanks Marilyn Mansfield lakevillecoa@comcast.net

MCOA Briefs: Member Requests (continued)

Focus Groups: I'm looking for a suggested agenda to conduct a focus group of senior citizens. Thanks Arthur E.J. Levesque Director Lancaster Council on Aging P.O. Box 346 Lancaster, MA 01523 978-368-4355 Fax 978-365-5837 alevesque@lancasterma.net

Grant Opportunities: Our Board met last night and is interested in finding out about any and all available grant opportunities. They are looking for small grants (i.e.. 8-10,000). Do you have any web sites I could search? Thanks, Christine Clish, Townsend <mailto:chrisc@townsend.ma.us>

Senior Housing: The Conway Housing Committee has been working on a project to erect senior housing in the town. The Conway COA is assisting them in any way we can. The HC has run up against a problem: to locate a developer/builder that would build and manage the housing. (The Franklin County Rehabilitation and Housing Authority, which was originally interested in the project, withdrew when they discovered that state funds were not being allocated for elderly housing.) Does anyone know of an organization/developer/etc. that might be interested in taking on a project such as this? Pat Lynch, Chair Conway COA [patricialynch@earthlink.net]

Regional Mental Health Task Force: I am involved with a Mental Health Task Force and we are trying to write a Memorandum of Understanding that our towns could use for COA's, Home Care, police, fire, board of health, etc.. Does anyone have anything like this that they could share? My email address is vlowe@townfoxborough.us. Thank you for your help. Vicki Lowe

Handyman Programs: First and foremost, I would like to thank you for immediately responding to our inquiry about any handyman programs you are currently operating, or have had in the past. All the information provided will surely increase our chances for success. As we begin our new undertaking, I was hoping to receive some insight from you, on potential issues and concerns you may have experienced. If so, how did you address those challenges, and what would you suggest we put in place to ensure we run an efficient program? An attached document is enclosed showing a basic outline of some of those considerations for a program. If you could take a few minutes to respond to those that apply and return at your convenience, it would be appreciated. Again, thank you so much for your time, and we look forward to hearing from you soon! Sincerely, Michael Faherty, Student Intern Marshfield Council on Aging mc_faherty@yahoo.com

What type of services offered?	What is our response to client's request?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Minor Home Repairs- Minor Tasks- Work related to health, safety, or security- Potential Repairs- Minor electrical, plumbing, carpentry- Potential Tasks- light bulbs, smoke detector battery replacement, light furniture movement, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Prioritize repairs/tasks- Notify a handyman- Schedule a visit for assessment (record mileage)- Estimate Cost of Materials- Purchase Supplies- Schedule Job (record hours)- Follow-up
What are limitations to services?	How do they market the program?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- New construction- Repairs to heating systems and major appliances- Roof work, cement/masonry- Ladder work	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Link- Create a possible brochure
How do clients request services?	How do elders qualify?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Name, Phone Number, Description of Repair/Task	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 60 years or older- Work must be within our capabilities and guidelines- Pay for own materials, unless funding is available
Is there a fee?	How to screen volunteers? Safeguards?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- No charge except for materials- Accept possible donations- Title III, USDA low interest grant?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- CORI check- Experience- Create a Photo ID?- Liability insurance?- Volunteers do not give out phone numbers to clients

Please forward all material that you want published in MCOANews to Janiece@mcoaonline.com

MCOA Briefs: Member Requests (continued)-TRANSPORTATION FOCUS

DOT Regs: I am researching how other COA's handle the Dept of Transportation (DOT) regulations regarding medical certification of CDL Driver's. Questions:

1. Does the city/town send their drivers to an independent physician for medical certification and also pay for the exam?
2. Does the driver bring the form to their own personal physician and use their health insurance plan to cover the costs?
3. Once the certification is granted, the city/town Human Resources dept. keep the medical information on file at the City Hall or does the COA keep the medical records of CDL drivers on-site.
4. Has anyone ever had the DOT review employee files or ask to see the medical certification files?
5. Has anyone used any of the DOT federal guidelines to restrict a driver from duties?

Thank you for any information you can provide.

MaryAnn Holak Beverly COA 978-921-6017 mholak@beverlyma.gov

Transportation Policy: Would you Email the network and ask other COA`s if they have a transportation policy specifically for medical conditions of van drivers and volunteer drivers. In Pembroke , we do not have such a policy. We have had a medical episode this past week with a medical volunteer driver who had a diabetic problem. I have downloaded the Ma. Registry of Motor Vehicles standards for school bus, class 7D and 7D1/2 transport policy and follow those standards. Thank you for your help. My Email address is: pembcoa@gis.net
Mary E. Willis, COA Director

Transportation Reports: I want some input on data collection and reports regarding transportation. The Greenfield Senior Center has "My Senior Center" for data collection but it is not helpful for my Med-Ride Program. I can not get reports I need, such as total number of miles, number of clients or destinations for a particular time period. I was wondering if any of the other centers have this problem and if so has anyone figured some way, other than creating a data base in excel, to get hte information needed.

Thank you. MaryAnn Socquet, Med-Ride Coordinator Greenfield Senior Center
e-mail: maryanns@townofgreenfield.org 413-772-1517 x 1

Van Trip Policies: I would like to have copies of policies for van use and for trips from some COA`s that have them in place...standards of independence, behavior, etc.

Thanks in advance. You guys always come through for me! Jane A. Haines Director
Council on Aging 137 Central St East Bridgewater MA 02333 508-378-1610

Transportation Coordinator Job Description Plus: I am hoping to hear from COA Director's who manage a fleet of between 5-10 buses, vans and have a transportation coordinator/manager on staff. In particular, I am looking for job description and salary information for the role of transportation coordinator. If you can help, please respond to:

mholak@beverlyma.gov. Thanks for your assistance, MaryAnn Holak, Director
Beverly Council on Aging 978-921-6017.

Resources You Can Use: From our friends at MA Bar Association:

The Mass Bar Association 2008 Elder Law Education Program is again presenting its annual training program for communities around the Commonwealth. Their available reference guide entitled "Taking Control of Your Future: A Legal Checkup" details many topics that can be presented at your senior center for no cost during the month of May. They request 15+ people and ask that your request be submitted by the end of this month. You should have already received a letter detailing this offer. Contact MBA at 20 West Street, Boston 02111-1204 Attn: Elder law Education Program or call 617.338.0500 or email them at communityservices@massbar.org with "Elder Law" in the subject line item.

MCOA Briefs: Resources You Can Use

A Message from Daniel C. Crane NCPW March 2-8, 2008

Dear Massachusetts Resident, My name is Daniel Crane and I am the Undersecretary of the Massachusetts Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation. One of the objectives of the office is to provide information so that consumers can make educated and informed choices. Since this week is National Consumer Protection Week each day we will be highlighting a different consumer issue that you should be aware of. The attached consumer advisory brings to your attention an issue that is relevant at this time of year. Please check our website regularly at www.mass.gov/consumer for consumer advisories about a variety of topics. The newsletter is in PDF format so you will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to open the file. If you already have Acrobat Reader you will be able to open the newsletter without any problems. ,

Medicaid Eligibility – Questions and Answers About the Treatment of Economic Stimulus Rebates and Digital Television Converter Box Coupons Under Medicaid: IFrom Emmett Schmarsow, EOE

- Q. How will the recently enacted economic stimulus rebates be treated under Medicaid? Should they be counted as income and/or resources?
- A. The answer is no, the rebates are not counted as income or resources under Medicaid, although the amount of time the rebates are not counted as resources is limited. The economic stimulus legislation (P.L. 110-185) provides that credits or refunds issued under the bill are not to be counted as income or resources in the month of receipt, and for the following two months, for purposes of determining eligibility for or the amount of benefits under any federal program, or under any state or local program financed in whole or in part with federal funds. Obviously that includes the Medicaid program.
- Q. What does “amount of benefits” mean? Does that mean the rebates are not counted as income under the post-eligibility treatment of income process? What about transfers of assets for less than fair market value and estate recovery?
- A. The rebates are not countable as income for either post-eligibility or transfers of assets. Counting the rebates as income under post-eligibility would result in increased income to the individual, which in turn would result in Medicaid reducing its payment to the provider. That means the amount of benefits payable on behalf of the individual would be reduced if the rebates are counted as income under post-eligibility. The same applies to transfers of assets for less than fair market value, and to estate recovery.
- Q. The Department of Commerce is planning to send “coupons” worth \$40 each to households for the purpose of purchasing television digital converter boxes. The coupons are to help defray the cost of purchasing the boxes, which will be needed by people who do not have digital television receivers when television signals are no longer broadcast in analog format beginning in 2009. Will the value of these coupons be countable as income under the Medicaid program?
- A. No, the coupons will not count as income under Medicaid. The coupon Commerce is distributing is actually a form of credit card, each worth \$40. A person would take his coupon to a retailer and exchange it for a converter box. If the converter box costs more than \$40, the person would pay only the difference.

According to Commerce, there is nothing else a person can do with this coupon except buy a converter box. The coupon cannot be converted to cash at a bank, for example, or used to buy anything but a converter box. That means the \$40 coupons would not be considered income under Medicaid. For Medicaid, income is broadly defined as anything a person receives that can be used to purchase food or shelter. Since the coupons can only be used to purchase a converter box, the coupons do not meet the definition of income and thus would not be counted as income under Medicaid.

MCOA Briefs: Resources You Can Use (continued)

Fraud Alert I: From Emmett Schmarsov, EOE

The town accountant in Grafton received a suspicious e-mail from the "IRS" (today). It stated there was a complaint against "my company" and the complaint was attached. The attachment was a two page form requesting personal information. This email is part of a phishing scheme that is being reported on the IRS website warning against Identity Theft. If you receive any suspicious emails, you can report them to the IRS at: phishing@irs.gov. It should go without saying that we all need constant reminders regarding the wonderfully creative ways that criminals seek to steal money, identity and reputation from anyone who is willing to let them.

Fraud Alert II: From Emmett Schmarsov, EOE

... This came routed through several state agencies on aging. The ramifications are nearly and clearly astonishing. There has been some NPR reporting on it as well, I believe. It has been edited for brevity....

A company called Survey Trust is asking seniors to provide extensive personal information, including social security number, Medicare number, financial details, and all health information. The senior also completes an IRREVOCABLE Durable Limited Power of Attorney that gives the company the right to lifelong access of the individual's medical records and he signs a form authorizing and directing his heirs and assigns to provide a copy of the Death Certificate. In exchange for completing this "survey" and participating in the program, the senior is given \$1,000 immediately and receives \$250/year for the rest of his life. The packet is extensive and confusing, and improper use or disclosure of the information will put seniors at risk for financial exploitation and identity theft. All information was turned over to Consumer Affairs and the Attorney General's Office.

The company is soliciting churches, senior centers, and any other venue where seniors gather. They are now offering scooters and other DME's (durable medical equipment) in addition to the \$1000.

This appears to be a **STOLI** operation (**Stranger Oriented Life Insurance**) and while distasteful, it does not appear to be illegal. (The ramifications from disclosure or sale of the information at a later date are another issue entirely, but there are no facts to address this.) This operation also is not a straight out viatical transaction where the insured is selling their policy directly to a speculator. This appears to be a company that purchases information, then may insure the individual or sell the information to a speculator who insures the individual. Some discussion indicates that in these types of operations, sometimes speculators may be foreign interests, so there is a whole other realm of liability, risk, and jurisdiction that could be of concern.) This company is operating all over the US right now. If you will go to www.KCRA.com, an internet website for Channel 3 in Sacramento, and search for STOLI, you will find their article on Survey Trust. There is also a video of an interview with Prescott Cole, Senior Staff Attorney for the California Association for Nursing Home Reform. I called Prescott and learned that there is a case in the California courts right now (Lighthouse) where the local partnership of Survey Trust had a falling out and the partners sued each other. That case gives a pretty good view of how the company and process is structured. **We sent out a blanket email to every COA, Senior Center, and other person/entity on our Aging Email list yesterday. We are following up with hard copy. We are also contacting the central office, dioceses, presbytery, etc., for the mainstream churches and asking that they contact their member churches with the information. A copy of the email and letter is attached for your reference. Unfortunately, the solicitation is escalating faster than we can get the word out.** While there is a possibility of personal identity theft related fraud, this really seems to be phishing for medical identity theft. Essentially what happens is a bogus clinic with access to real medical information starts billing insurance companies and Medicare/Medicaid for treatment and services that were never delivered. Often, the patients are not swindled out of money, but their medical records have on them fraudulent treatments and conditions. Once on the records, they are exceptionally difficult to remove because of HIPAA.

Additionally, those modified records are the ones used for emergency treatment for the real person (!~).

This can be problematic and even life threatening. If the records reflect diabetes treatment or HIV treatment (likely because the fraudster clinic can make a lot of money from these high value treatments) then the patient may get the wrong or inappropriate treatment for an actual condition. Several deaths have occurred. Some bogus clinics have made millions of dollars in a relatively short period of time.

Sally Crawford Ramm, Elder Rights Attorney State of Nevada, Division for Aging Services [and others](#)

MCOA Briefs: Resources You Can & SHOULD Use

Masspro Brings Medicare Information to Your Doorstep

Ellen Pothier, RN Medicare Beneficiary Outreach & Mediation Coordinator, Masspro

Masspro, the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) for Massachusetts, brings important information about Medicare right to your doorstep. Interactive presentations cover the following topics, to name a few:

- What's new in 2008
- Quality of care complaints
- New Hospital Appeal Rights
- Preventive services
- How to use 1-800-MEDICARE and www.medicare.gov effectively

Programs can be customized to meet the needs of your audience and your staff. Posters and handouts are used to enhance the learning experience.

Testimonials

Here is what some people have said about the presentations...

"The world of Medicare is sometimes difficult to navigate, but with Ellen's easy-to-understand presentation, the participants, including staff members, felt empowered and confident that their issues could be resolved and that Masspro is there to help."

-Barbara Search, Sturbridge Council on Aging

"The discussion about Medicare rights and benefits led to energetic discussions about health care issues and how seniors can play a bigger role in health advocacy. Expanded COA programming was requested and developed as a result of these discussions."

-Caren Eichenbaum, Cambridge Council on Aging

"Ellen provided the seniors of Woburn with an informative discussion at the Senior Center. A number of participants mentioned that they did not know about the valuable services provided at Masspro and felt that the protections of Medicare rights were of great importance to all seniors. We look forward to hosting future presentations to update seniors of their rights under the Medicare system."

-Judy Tanner, Woburn Council on Aging

"Masspro provides a vital service to Medicare recipients by helping them understand their rights. The Masspro outreach program held at the Milford Senior Center gave our seniors all the important information they need to protect themselves."

-Dolores DeVita, Milford Senior Center

To Schedule a Presentation

If you are interested in scheduling a presentation at your facility, please contact Ellen Pothier RN, by calling 781-419-2889, or via e-mail at epothier@maqio.sdps.org. It's best to plan a program well in advance so that you will have time to advertise it in your newsletter.

For more information about Masspro, visit www.masspro.org.

Be sure to visit Masspro's display at the MCOA's annual meeting in October.

This material was prepared by Masspro, the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for Massachusetts, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily represent CMS policy. 8sow-ma-bene-06-21 mcoa article-aug

MCOA Briefs: Job Opportunities

Billerica Volunteer Coordinator: The Volunteer/Activities Coordinator is responsible for contributing to the well-being of senior citizens by working as member of a team that strives to make the senior center a warm and vibrant place. Duties include scheduling, planning and advertising social and recreational activities, filling volunteer positions, and planning day trips. Oversees volunteer recruitment, orientation and placement, and organizes the annual recognition event. Computer skills are necessary to manage all aspects of myseniorcenter™ software tracking system, and software programs such as MS word and publishing programs. Must possess exceptional customer services skills, and have experience dealing with the public. Requirements: Associates Degree and 3-5 year of experience in planning programs for Older Adults and Volunteer Coordination is preferred. Must have experience with software programs including but not limited to, MS Office, Publisher, Word and Excel. Must have 2 years of paid experience in an office environment or equivalency in schooling. Municipal experience preferred but not necessary. Computer skills are necessary to manage all aspects of MySeniorCenter™ software tracking system, Strong Organizational skills, Communication skills (both Oral and written) Salary Range: \$451.60—\$642.80 (Steps established by SEIU Local 888 Clerical Union Contact: Send resume and cover letter to: Donna Popkin, 25 Concord Road, Billerica, MA 01821 or by email Dpopkin@town.billerica.ma.us

Falmouth Human Services Director Full-time senior management position with oversight of all department activities. Oversees the work program of the County Commissioners including recommending operational strategies relating to the department, organizing public forums, interagency coordination, liaison with the human services community and elected officials. Serves as the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Coordinator. Must have excellent management skills, superior oral and written communication, and interpersonal skills. Bachelor's Degree in human services, public health, social work or related required; Master's Degree preferred. Minimum five years increasingly responsible experience in management, community organization and/or community planning. Send resume by noon on April 7, 2008 to Human Resources Director, P.O. Box 427, Barnstable, MA 02630

TOWN OF WESTPORT, MA COUNCIL ON AGING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director - Provide leadership and staff supervision to busy Council on Aging in sub-rural Massachusetts town. Experience with grant writing, budget preparation and excellent organizational skills required. Ability to set priorities, meet deadlines and be flexible in a fast paced environment also necessary. Minimum BA/BS in human services, psychology, social work or gerontology, plus three years working with senior population. Salary negotiable. Send resume and letter of interest to Executive Director Search, Board of Selectmen, Westport Town Hall, 816 Main Road, Westport, MA by March 20, 2008 or until filled.

Amesbury Council on Aging: Outreach Worker.

Schedule Tuesday & Friday from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM and Wednesday from 8:00 AM - 2:30 PM for a total of 20 hours per week.

Salary Grade 8 Step 1 \$20.37 per hour

To Apply Send fax or mail resume of application to:

Pamela Brown, M.S.W., Director

Amesbury Senior Center

9 School Street

Amesbury, MA 01913

Fax 978-388-8144

Deadline Open until filled

AA/EOE

MCOA 2007-2008 Planning Calendar

UPCOMING Events: - Circulate to Your Staff

2008

April 14	Mass Senior Action Day, Great Hall/Boston
April 15	MGA Annual Meeting, Newton Marriott
April 18	MCOA Board, Worcester EOE A
April 29	TRIAD Conference, Log Cabin in Holyoke
May 9	Compulsive Gambling-25 th Annual Conference
May 13-14	MA DPH Suicide Prevention Conference, Sturbridge Host
May 14	Essex County TRIAD Conference, Peabody Life Center
May 14	Alzheimer's Association: A Map Through the Maze-Annual Conference, Royal Plaza, Marlboro
May 15	MA DPH State Fall Prevention Symposium, DCU/Worcester
May 16	MCOA Advisory Council, Milford COA
May 20	Joint WMASS Spring Conference, Sheraton, Springfield
May 22	MCOA Volunteers Coordinators, Bellingham - postponed to later date
June 4	Aging and Dignity Conference, Holy Cross
June 12	Small and Rural COA Spring Conference, Calvary Retreat, Shrewsbury
June 16	Mass Home Care Silver Anniversary, Burlington Marriott
June 18	MCOA Outreach, Worcester EOE A
June 20	MCOA Membership, Milford COA
July 17	MCOA Advisory Council, Milford COA (Thursday Summer meeting)
August 21	MCOA Board, Worcester EOE A (Thursday Summer meeting)
Sept 18	MCOA Outreach Summit, Milford COA
Sept 19	MCOA Membership, Milford COA
Sept 25	Mass Home Care Annual Conference, Hogan Center/Holy Cross
Sept 28-Oct 1 st	NAUSA/ Boston
Oct 15-17	MCOA Fall Conference, Sea Crest Resort, Falmouth
Oct 24	MA Aging and Mental Health Coalition, Holy Cross, Worcester

TBA = Date or Location to be announced

Regional Meetings:

WMACA	represents the four western MA counties, meets quarterly. Judy White/Monson COA (413)267-4121
CEMACA	represents Central MA, meets 4/year. Betsy Connell/ Worcester EOE A (508)799-8030
CIRCA	represents SE MA and Cape Cod and the Islands, meets quarterly. John Magnani/Falmouth (508)540-0196
NSACA	represents greater North Shore area meets quarterly. Contact Diane Bertolino/Rockport (978)546-2573
Blackstone Valley Consortium	meets regularly Contact Ruth Anne Bleakney/Milford (508)473-8334
DUN/MetroWest Consortium	meets regularly. Contact Mary Parcher/Framingham (508)6204819 &
Minuteman Consortium	meets regularly. Terri Marciello/Wilmington (978)657-7595
Merrimack Valley Consortium	meets regularly. Roseann Robillard/ Newburyport COA (978)462-8650 or Lynne Stanton/ Groveland COA (97)372-1101
HESSCO Area Consortium	meets regularly. Contact Barbara Coghlan/ Walpole (508)668-3330 or Janet Angelico/Wrentham (508)384-5425 or Pat Carty Larkin/Westwood (781)329-8799
Greater Boston	Unaffiliated COAs in Boston, Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop, Somerville, & Cambridge
LOHSC	Meets the 2 nd Friday of each month at MMA/Boston. Contact Bob Cammarata/ Taunton (508)821-1425

UpComing National Conferences:

- March 26-30, 2008** Joint Conference of NCOA and the American Society on Aging, Washington, DC
- March 16-19, 2009** Joint Conference of NCOA and the American Society on Aging Las Vegas, NV
- October 6-9, 2009** MCOA Fall Conference Sturbridge Host

SAVE OUR Senior Centers Task Force: Is actively tracking the impact the FY09 budget on senior centers and staffing. Please send updates and your concerns to Ruthann Dobek/Brookline Ruthann_Dobek@town.brookline.ma.us and Jayne Colino/ Newton jcolino@newtonma.gov
The Latest sad news....."Stoneham could soon hand over management of its Senior Center to a nonprofit group. The town plans to ask voters during the Annual Town Meeting in May to let Community Service Network Inc. take over management of the Elm Street center." Details at http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2008/03/16/nonprofit_may_run_senior_center?p1=email_to_a_friend

Upcoming Events: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Additional information and registration forms enclosed for the following:

Save the Date Info: Preliminary Information Enclosed on some of these events

7 Dates for the Keep Moving Program Registraion Material Enclosed

- April 14 Mass Senior Action Day, Great Hall/Boston
- May 9th **Compulsive Gambling Conference**
- May 13 & 14 **Suicide Prevention Conference, Sturbridge Host**
- May 14 Essex County TRIAD Conference, Peabody Life Center
- May 14 Alzheimer's Association: A Map Through the Maze-Annual Conference, Royal Plaza, Marlboro
Details at bwww.alzmass.org/maze08
- May 15th **Fall Prevention Symposium, DCU/Worcester, Registraion Material Enclosed**
- May 20 **19th Annual Elder Care Confernde in Western MA (see details below)**
- June 4th **Aging and Dignity Conference, Holy Cross/Worcester**
- June 16 Mass Home Care Silver Anniversary, Burlington Marriott

Save the Date The 19th Annual Elder Care Conference for Western Massachusetts

**Tuesday, May 20, 2008 • 8:15 am - 4:00 pm
Sheraton Springfield Hotel • Springfield, MA**

Keynote by Massachusetts Secretary of Elder Affairs, Michael Festa
A program for Elder Care Providers, Administrators, Educators and Policy-makers
CEUs offered

Registration materials will be mailed the first week in April.

**If you have any questions, contact
Michele McQuillen at mmcquillen@mphaweb.org or 617-524-6696 ext. 104.**

MCOA Briefs: Educational Opportunity

Connecting for Safe Communities:

Suicide Prevention Across the Lifespan

SAVE THE DATE

7th Annual Massachusetts

Suicide Prevention Conference

Keynote Speaker: Secretary JudyAnn Bigby, MD Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Tuesday, May 13, 2008 & Wednesday, May 14, 2008
Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center, Sturbridge, Massachusetts

CEUs Available/ **Information and Registration to follow**

Sponsored by: Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, Massachusetts Coalition for Suicide Prevention, AdCare Educational Institute

For more information contact: laura@adcare-educational.org

Janice Ventre, Suicide Prevention Program Assistant, MA Department of Public Health
250 Washington St. 4th floor Boston, MA 02108
email: janice.ventre@state.ma.us <http://www.state.ma.us/dph/fch/injury/index.htm>

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

THE AGING WITH DIGNITY CONFERENCE:

Preventing and Responding to Substance Use Problems
Among Older People

A conference for health and human service professionals

Holy Cross College, Worcester, MA

Registration brochure will be mailed six weeks before the conference.
If you would like additional information, or you are deaf or hard of hearing,
or are a person with disability who requires accommodation,
please contact AdCare Educational Institute, Inc. at
(508) 752-7313, TTY: (508) 754-0039

Co-Sponsored by:

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services and the Healthy Aging and Health and Disability Unit; the Massachusetts Geriatric Substance Abuse Task Force; the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs; the Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging and Senior Center Directors; Mass Home Care; & AdCare Educational Institute, Inc.



Massachusetts Council on
Compulsive Gambling

E-INVITE

We understand the problem. We can help.

January 31, 2008

Save the Date!

**Friday, May 9, 2008
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

The Council's 25th Anniversary 2008 Massachusetts Conference on Gambling Problems

*Gambling Disorders in the Commonwealth:
Honoring Past Achievements, Recognizing Present
Accomplishments, and Looking to the Future*

The 2008 Conference will celebrate the Council's 25th anniversary. Examples of the past, present and future of problem gambling services will be incorporated throughout the day's activities and workshops.

Conference attendees will chose to follow one of three workshop tracks: Prevention, Treatment, or Technological Advancements.

Space is limited. To reserve your place, please register online <http://masscouncilregistration.org/>

For more information please call 617-426-4554 or e-mail peggie@masscompulsivegambling.org

*Earn Continuing
Education Units
(CEUs)*

"Life is divided into three terms - that which was, which is, and which will be. Let us learn from the past to profit by the present, and from the present to live a better tomorrow." -- William Wordsworth

THE MASSACHUSETTS
COUNCIL ON
COMPULSIVE GAMBLING



*Celebrating 25 years of
compassion, understanding
and solutions*

The Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling
www.masscompulsivegambling.org | gambling@aol.com
business: 617.426.4554 | helpline: 800.426.1234

Funded in part by the Massachusetts Department of Health.

Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling • 190 High Street Suite 5 • Boston, MA 02110

This email was sent to janiece@mcoonline.com. To ensure that you continue receiving our emails, please add us to your address book or safe list.

manage your preferences | opt out using TrueRemove®.

Got this as a forward? Sign up to receive our future emails.



DON'T MISS THIS EVENT!



First Annual

Massachusetts Statewide Falls Prevention Symposium

Thursday, May 15th DCU Center, Worcester

9:30am – 3:00pm (boxed lunch included) Registration and Refreshments open at 8:30 am

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: *LEWIS LIPSITZ, M.D., CHIEF OF GERONTOLOGY BETH ISRAEL DEACONESS MEDICAL CENTER, PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL, VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC MEDICINE AT HEBREW SENIORLIFE AND INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED EDUCATOR, RESEARCHER, CLINICIAN AND EXPERT ON FALLS IN OLDER ADULTS.*

**Free of charge for all participants
(Funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health)**

To Register: Fill out enclosed Registration Form

Questions: call MECF at 617-558-0202

This free symposium will bring together leaders from around Massachusetts, neighboring New England states, and national organizations working on falls prevention across settings. Education programs will include content on falls prevention for hospital, long term care, assisted living, community and home care staff. Afternoon sessions will be interactive, and ample time for networking will be provided. Topics covered will include medication management, environmental modification and exercise programs to prevent falls. Government agencies participating in falls prevention and key state legislators will also be in attendance.

***Up to 4.5 CEUs will be provided for administrators, nurses, activity professionals and social workers.
CMEs will be available for physicians and nurse practitioners.
Certificates of attendance will be provided to all attendees.***

Sponsored by:

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health

The Massachusetts Falls Prevention Coalition

The Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts and The Massachusetts Long Term Care Foundation

If you are Deaf or hard of hearing, or are a person with a disability who requires accommodation, please contact Lewis Howe at 617-624-5460, Fax to 617-624-5075, or email to Lewis.Howe@state.ma.us by May 1, 2008.



*Massachusetts Statewide
Falls Prevention Symposium*

*Thursday, May 15th
DCU Center, Worcester
9:30am – 3:00pm*

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Deadline is May 2, 2008

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Participant Type: (Please circle)	<u>Nursing Facility / Hospital / Surveyor / Falls Coalition Member / Other</u>		
Registrant Name:			
Facility/Organization Name:			
Address:			
<u>City, State, Zip</u>			
Phone #:		Fax #:	
Email:			

Please note that space is limited and each facility/organization may register up to 4 people for this event. For nursing facilities we strongly recommend that participants include the Administrator, Director of Nurses, or other managerial position, and a CNA, or other entry-level worker.

Name/Title of Additional Attendees	Email
1.	
2.	
3.	

CEUs will be available for Administrators, Nurses, Social Workers & Activity Professionals. CMEs will be available for Physicians & Nurse Practitioners.

CEU REGISTRATION WILL TAKE PLACE ON-SITE

Please **FAX OR MAIL** this form to:

Massachusetts Extended Care Federation
2310 Washington Street, Suite 300
Newton Lower Falls, MA 02462
FAX: 617-558-3546



Connect with the AARP Community. It's free.

Q-and-A About Economic Stimulus Payments

By: AARP Tax-Aide | Source: AARP Tax-Aide

Have a question about the economic stimulus payment? The volunteers at AARP Tax-Aide have put together this list of questions to answer your concerns about eligibility and the steps you should take when filing your taxes.

Q: I am in the process of filing my 2007 tax return and want to know if I'm eligible for the rebate. How do I know if I'm eligible and what do I need to do?

A: To receive your refund, all you need to do is file your 2007 return. If the qualifying income shown on that return is more than \$3,000, you do not need to do anything else. The Treasury Department will start mailing the checks in May. You are eligible for the rebate if your "qualifying income" for 2007 is more than \$3,000. "Qualifying income" consists of salaries and wages, self-employment income, Social Security benefits, railroad-retirement benefits, veteran's disability compensation, and pension or survivor's benefits received from the Department of Veterans Affairs. However, if your income is more than \$75,000 (\$150,000 if filing a joint return), your eligibility for the rebate phases out incrementally.

Q: How will I know if I qualify for a rebate and how much of a rebate can I expect to receive?

A: The IRS plans to notify people about their eligibility, the amounts of their rebates, and when they can expect to receive checks. Eligible recipients can expect to receive a rebate equal to the amount of tax on their 2007 return, with a maximum of \$600 (\$1,200 if filing jointly), and a minimum of \$300 (\$600 if filing a joint return).

Taxpayers will get an additional \$300 rebate for each child for whom they claim a personal exemption and child tax credit on their returns. For a child to be eligible, he or she must have lived with the taxpayer for more than half of 2007, must be under the age of 17 at the end of 2007, and cannot have provided more than half of his or her own support during 2007.

Q: What if I don't normally file a tax return?

A: Even taxpayers who have no income tax liability will get rebates of \$300 (\$600 if filing a joint return) as long as they submit a tax return showing at least \$3,000 of qualifying income.

To receive the stimulus rebate, you should file an income tax return for 2007, even if you would not normally do so because of your income level.

If all the income you have is from Social Security, do the following:

- Write the phrase "Stimulus Rebate" across the top of the 1040 or the 1040A Form. Here is an example of the [1040A \(PDF\)](#).
- Fill in your name and address at the top.
- Fill in your Social Security number at the top right.
- Choose a filing status in box 1, 2, 3, or 4.
- At line 6a, choose yourself and a spouse (if applicable).
- If you are using the 1040A Form, enter your yearly Social Security total on line 14-A and leave 14-B (the taxable amount) blank.
- If you are using the regular 1040 Form, you would put your yearly total Social Security on line 20A. You can leave the "taxable amount" box on line 20B blank.
- Turn the form over and sign and date your return at the bottom of the back of the page.
- Mail the form to the IRS office for your area. This address is written on the back of the directions for the tax form. You can also find the regional addresses on the Web at www.irs.gov.

If you had at least \$3,000 in yearly Social Security income and were low income otherwise, then you should qualify for the rebate. The IRS will figure the amount of the rebate for you after you file your tax return. Checks will be mailed starting in May.

AARP: Economic Stimulus continued

Q: I receive Social Security disability benefits. I have already mailed my federal tax return for 2007. I use Form 1040A. I neglected to post on line 14A my Social Security benefits. This is needed for the federal economic stimulus program. I read the IRS Web site, and it said that I needed to use form 1040X to amend my return. I printed the instructions and the 1040X Form. I read the instructions, and if I understand them correctly, I can only adjust figures from adjusted gross income (line 21 on Form 1040A) and figures past line 21. My Social Security benefit will not affect my adjusted gross income. How can I correct my Social Security benefit amount (line 14A on 1040A) using Form 1040X? Thank you for your time and help!

A: If your return as filed reflects more than \$3,000 of "qualifying income," which consists of wages, self-employment, Social Security, or a veteran's pension, you need not file a 1040X Form, even if you omitted Social Security from line 14A. However, if the return does not register more than \$3,000 and you need to include your gross Social Security income to make the \$3,000 eligibility floor, you are correct; you must file a 1040X Form so as to reflect your gross Social Security. As you say, the actual taxable amounts on your return will not change. Complete both columns A and C of Form 1040X, showing zeros in Column B, "Adjustments." In Part II under Explanation of Changes, describe why you are filing the 1040X (for example, "To report total Social Security benefits on line 14A as required to qualify for a 2008 stimulus payment"). For good measure, you could attach a copy of page 1 of Form 1040A as you originally filed it, but with line 14A showing your total Social Security benefits.

Q: I'm 73 and receive Social Security but do not have to file a tax return. I live with my daughter, who claims me as a dependent. Do I qualify for the stimulus rebate?

A: Sorry, when you are claimed as a dependent on another taxpayer's return, you do not qualify for the stimulus rebate.

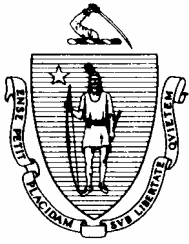
Q: My parents' only income is their Social Security benefits, so they do not file yearly income taxes. However, I know they are eligible for the tax stimulus refund. My question is, since my dad passed away on Dec. 14, 2007, is my mother eligible to receive his stimulus refund along with hers?

A: The IRS has not yet announced how your parents' situation will be handled. But to be considered for the stimulus rebate, your mother needs to file a Form 1040A. She would still qualify for the filing status of married filing jointly. The areas of the tax return that need to be filled in are: names, address, Social Security numbers, filing status, exemptions, 14a (will include Social Security benefits received, veterans benefits received, and/or death benefits). If she would like the rebate to go directly to her checking account, fill in 44b, c, and d. Sign and date the return, and the signature for the deceased should be, "filing as surviving spouse." In addition, write two notes in all capital letters at the top of the tax return, above the name-and-address area: "DECEASED" and date of death; above that, write "STIMULUS PAYMENT." The IRS will determine eligibility.

Q: Can people who draw only Supplemental Security Income (SSI) claim the stimulus payment that was just passed? A: No, SSI is not the kind of "qualifying income" that enables recipients to receive a rebate.

Q: I'm married and file a joint return. I have two disabled sons, ages 27 and 28, who are listed as dependents on my tax return. One son, Tim, gets Social Security Disability (SSD) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and also makes a small income working part-time at Goodwill Industries. His total annual income (without SSI) is more than \$3,000. He files a tax return, mainly to get back the taxes that were withheld. The other son, Tom, works at a sheltered workshop and makes \$120 per year. He also gets SSI. Like his brother, he files a tax return to get back the taxes that were withheld. How would my sons' stimulus payment(s) be made? A: Sorry, there will be no stimulus payments for your sons. Even though you claim them as exemptions, you cannot get an additional stimulus payments over that to which you and your wife are entitled by filing jointly. The reason is that both sons are over age 17 and are therefore not eligible. In addition, your sons cannot receive stimulus payments from their own returns. They are ineligible because they are claimed as dependents on someone else's return.

The AARP Tax-Aide Program is a volunteer-run, free tax-preparation and assistance service offered to low- and middle-income taxpayers with special attention to those age 60 and older. Our volunteers are trained and IRS-certified to understand individual federal-tax issues. Our volunteers provide tax assistance as a public service and cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information provided.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

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Spring Regional *Keep Moving* Walks

March 7, 2008

Dear Walking Club Leader:

The ***Keep Moving Program*** invites you and your walking club to participate in upcoming Spring Regional *Keep Moving* walks to celebrate senior fitness and to meet other walkers from around the state.

The walks will take place on the dates and times noted on the enclosed registration form **RAIN OR SHINE. Dress for the weather! Registration and warm up starts at 10:30 a.m. Walks start at 11:00 a.m. and conclude at 1 p.m.** For inclement weather cancellation notices, please check the message at (617-624-5972) on the day of the walk.

There will be one-mile and three-mile walking routes. Plan to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy following the walk! Picnic tables are available at the walk sites.

Enclosed are the walk locations and directions to the sites. All walkers will receive a complimentary gift. Please complete the enclosed registration form and return it by **April 11, 2008**.

Keep Moving clubs are encouraged to explore transportation options with *Keep Moving* clubs in surrounding communities. There is limited transportation assistance available to *Keep Moving* clubs. Please contact Ed Pomfred at **(617) 624-5972** or **edward.pomfred@state.ma.us** to discuss transportation assistance. Make your travel arrangements early.

Sincerely,

Ed Pomfred, Director
Keep Moving Program

Keep Moving is supported by Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs, Massachusetts Councils on Aging and Senior Center Directors, and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts.

Directions to **KEEP MOVING** Regional Spring Walks

Maudslay State Park and Interpretive Tour, Curzon Mill Road, Newburyport, MA

Friday, May 9, 2008 <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/northeast/maud.htm>

Maudslay State Park is located in northeastern Massachusetts, on the North Shore.

From North and South: Take Rte. 95, exit 57 to Rte. 113 east. Follow 113 east for half a mile and turn left on Noble St. At stop sign turn left onto Ferry Rd., bear left at fork and follow signs.

From West: Take I-495 exit 55 to Rte. 110 east. Continue 1 mile to Merrill St., turn right at second light. Continue on Merrill St./Spofford St. for 1.5 miles. Turn right before stop sign onto Ferry Rd., follow signs.

Look Memorial Park 300 North Main Street, Florence, MA

Wednesday, May 9, 2008 <http://www.lookpark.org/index.php>

From Springfield Area: I-91 North to exit 19: at end of ramp, follow attractions sign arrows. Cross route 9 you are now on Damon Road. Go to next light and go straight through. This is Bridge Road. Approx. 2 miles to Look Park.

From Amherst area: Route 9 west over Coolidge Bridge to light. Turn right. At next light, go straight 2 miles to Look Park.

From Greenfield area: Take I-91 south to exit 20. At light turn right. Approx. 2 miles to Look Park.

From Pittsfield area: From Lee, Lenox or Adams route 7 to route 9. Take route 9 east toward Windsor and Northampton. The park entrance is on the right just past the V.A. Medical Center.

From Boston area: Take Mass Turnpike west to exit 4 West Springfield. Follow directions from Springfield.

From Westfield/Southwick: Route to Northampton Center. At light (Academy Of Music on right & Edwards Church directly ahead of you) turn left onto route 9 west. Stay on route 9 through the village of Florence until you come to the park on left. Approx. 30-45 minutes.

Shining Sea Bikeway, Depot Avenue, Parking Lot Meeting Area Falmouth,

Friday, May 16, 2008 <http://members.aol.com/falbike/bike/bike/index.html>

From Boston: Take route 24 south to I-495 south to the Bourne Bridge. Or take Route 3 south to the Sagamore Bridge Rotary. Follow signs to Buzzards Bay/Falmouth, then cross the Bourne Bridge.

From Springfield/Worcester: Take the Mass. Turnpike to exit 1-495 south to Bourne Bridge.

From New York/Connecticut: Take I-95 to Providence, R.I. Then take I-95 to I-495 south to the Bourne Bridge. **From Bourne Bridge:** Take route 28 south to Falmouth. Fork right onto Locust Road. Entry to the bikeway's parking is one mile on right just beyond Pin Oak Way on left

Greater Boston Senior Games Keep Moving Walk, UMass Boston 100 Morrissey Boulevard, Dorchester, MA **Saturday, May 17, 2008**

MBTA: Take the Red Line to JFK/UMass Station. A free shuttle bus will carry you to the campus.

Commuter Rail: Take the commuter rail to the JFK/UMass station from the South Shore on the Middleboro and Plymouth lines.

By car from the north: Take Interstate 93 South through Boston to Exit 15 (Columbia Road/JFK Library). Take a left at the end or the ramp onto Columbia Road, and then take your first right in the rotary. Follow the University of Massachusetts signs along Columbia Road and Morrissey Boulevard to the campus.

By car from the south: Take Interstate 93 North to exit 14 (Morrissey Boulevard/JFK Library) and follow Morrissey Boulevard north to the campus.

By car from the west: Take the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate 90) east to Interstate 93. Take I-93 South one mile to Exit 15 (JFK Library/South Boston/Dorchester). Take a left at the end or the ramp onto Columbia Road, and then take your first right in the rotary. Follow the University of Massachusetts signs along Columbia Road and Morrissey Boulevard to the campus.

Camping parking fee: \$6.00.

D.W. Field Park, Fuller Craft Museum Tour Oak Street, Brockton, MA

Friday, May 30, 2008 <http://www.dwfieldpark.com/index1.html>

From the south: Route 24 North to exit 18B; follow directions below from Exit 18B

From the north: Route 93 South, through Boston, SE Expressway/I-93S/Route 3 S/US 1 toward Quincy/Cape Cod to exit 4 on left merge onto Rt 24 S toward Brockton; follow directions from exit 18B.

From the west: Take Mass Pike/I-90, east towards Boston. Take exit 14 to merge onto Route I-95S/Route 128S toward the South Shore. Continue on Route I-93N/US 1N. Take exit 4 on the left to merge onto Route 24 S toward Brockton; follow directions from exit 18B.

From exit 18B head towards Stoughton; take right on North Pearl Street; take right on Oak Street; pass the Greek Orthodox church; pass Fuller Craft Museum. Park Entrance is on Oak Street on the left; park in the lot on the left.

Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park & Tour 287 Oak Street, Uxbridge,

Friday, June 6, 2008 <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/central/blst.htm>

Take the Massachusetts Turnpike to Worcester/Providence Exit 10A to Route 146 South. In 12 miles use the Uxbridge Exit for Route 16 and turn left onto Route 16 East, drive 2 miles to the traffic lights and turn left on Route 122 North, drive 1-1/4 mile and turn right at traffic light onto Hartford Ave. In 1 mile, turn right on Oak Street at the UMass Memorial Tri-River Family Health Center. Visitor Center is 1/10 mile down the road on the left in the red barn. From Route 122 For those that prefer to travel through some of the mill villages, use Mass Pike Exit 11 for Millbury and follow Route 122 South for 13 miles to Hartford Avenue and turn left. In 1 mile, turn right on Oak Street at the UMass Memorial Tri-River Family Health Center. Visitor Center is 1/10 mile down the road on the left in the red barn.

Jan Marble Memorial Walk and Fort Independence Tour 2000 Day Boulevard Castle Island, South

Boston, MA **Friday, June 20, 2008** <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/metroboston/castle.htm>

MBTA: Red Line to Broadway Station, MBTA Bus #9 or #11 to the end of the line. Walk to the right across Marine Park to the beach to the entrance of the fort.

By car. Rt. 3 (I-93) to JFK # 15 follow beach along William J. Day Boulevard, Castle Island is at the end of the Causeway. If coming from south, turn right at the bottom of the ramp. If coming from north, turn left at the bottom of the ramp Follow signs for South Boston – Castle Island When you come to the rotary, go half way around and bear right onto Day Boulevard. Follow the beach, passing the Metro Police Station and the Carson Beach Bathhouse located 100 yards from the station. Follow Day Boulevard all the way to the very end. Autos: Park at the MDC lot near Sullivan's Restaurant.

Buses: Please drop off passengers at MDC lot and park buses in area marked for buses just outside of MDC lot. Look for the *Keep Moving* banner at the base of Fort Independence.

Keep Moving Spring Walks 2008 Registration

PLEASE PRINT:

Name of Walking Club: _____

Contact Person: _____ Tel.# _____

E-mail address: _____

Address: _____
Street

City

State

Zip code

Please circle the walks and provide the number of walkers that will be attend.

1. Maudslay State Park with Interpretive Tour, Newburyport, MA
Friday, May 9, 2008 (10:30 a.m-1 p.m.)
Number attending _____
2. Look Memorial Park, Florence, MA
Wednesday, May 14, 2008 (10:30 a.m-1 p.m.)
Number attending _____
3. Shining Sea Bikeway, Falmouth, MA
Friday, May 16, 2008 (10:30 a.m-1 p.m.)
Number attending _____
4. Greater Boston Senior Games, University of Mass Boston Harbor Campus, Boston, MA
Saturday, May 17, 2008 (11:30 a.m. start, 1 mile route)
Number attending _____
5. D.W. Field Park, Fuller Craft Museum Tour, Brockton, MA
Tours being arranged for those interested and who have pre-registered. Club leaders
please indicate # wishing to take tour _____ Tour times to be announced.
Friday, May 30, 2008 (10:30 a.m-1 p.m.)
Number attending _____
6. Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park, Interpretive Tour, Uxbridge, MA
Friday, June 6, 2008 (10:30 a.m-1 p.m.)
Number attending _____
7. Jan Marble Memorial Walk, Fort Independence Tour
Castle Island, South Boston, MA
Friday, June 20, 2008 (10:30 a.m-1 p.m.)
Number attending _____

Please return reservations by April 11, 2008

Ed Pomfred, Keep Moving coordinator

MDPH, 250 Washington St., 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

FAX to: (617) 624-5075 Phone: (617) 624-5972

e-mail: edward.pomfred@state.ma.us

Grandma
Natick
MAOA
MGA
Elder Caucus letter