

MCOA Newsletter & Updates

MCOA Membership Meeting

*Monday, January 27th
1:00 - 3:30PM
Cohen Center, Hallowell*

*Please note that the meeting will begin at 1:00pm, not
1:30pm as previously scheduled.*

Come hear about the 2020 Census, LTSS reform, Expansion,
the State Plan on Aging and more!

Membership meetings are a great networking opportunity! We invite you to
bring multiple folks from your organization to learn and connect with other
MCOA members - we hope to see you there!

Healthy snacks will be provided courtesy of North Country Associates

SAVE THE DATE!

Maine Wisdom Summit

September 16th, 2020

*We are thrilled to announce this year's Keynote Speaker,
Kathy Greenlee!*

Our keynote speaker, sponsored by ***Androscoggin Home Healthcare + Hospice***, former Assistant Secretary for Aging, Kathy Greenlee, has a deep expertise in the areas of aging, long-term care, disability, elder abuse, health care, and community service innovation. She will offer participants a national perspective on health and community reform efforts and partnerships that are working to increase the health and well-being of older people. We are thrilled to have her join us this year!



Exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities are now available!

Take advantage of Early Registration as a MCOA Member -- secure your space before registration opens to non-member organizations!

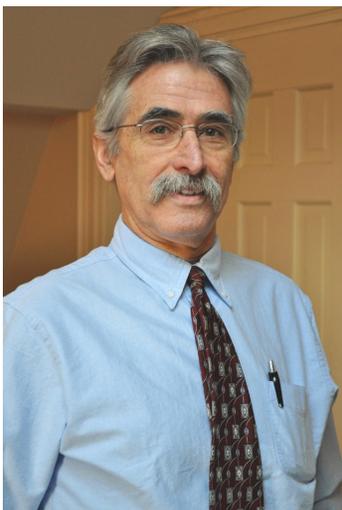
Register by clicking the link below or Contact jmaurer@mainecouncilonaging.org or 207-592-9972 for more information.

[Click here to Sponsor and Exhibit at the Summit!](#)

Would you or someone from your organization be willing to help with this year's Maine Wisdom Summit?

We are in the beginning phases of planning this year's Wisdom Summit. As Member Organizations of the MCOA, we welcome you to join us in the planning process. If you or someone from your organization would be willing to join the Summit Planning Committee or help volunteer in some way, please let us know.

MCOA Board Member Highlight:



This month we are featuring one of the founding Board Members and the Vice Chair of the MCOA: Donald Harden.

Don serves as the Director of Services for Older Adults at Catholic Charities Maine, a faith-based, non-profit organization, that has been serving the poor and vulnerable populations of Maine since 1966. Inspired by scripture and the Church's social teaching, Catholic Charities empowers and strengthens individuals and families of all faiths by providing innovative community-based social services throughout Maine. To read more about the work of Catholic Charities, [click here](#).

We asked Don to share about the important work of his organization and why he continues to be excited to serve on the MCOA Leadership Team. Here's what he said:

What is one exciting aspect of your current work that you want MCOA

members to know about?

Over the past year Catholic Charities Maine decided to directly engage Maine's Citizens who identify as Catholic...nearly a fifth of the State's population...about issues of Aging and more fundamentally how they can be supportive in ensuring that all Parishioners can "age in place...age well" in their Faith Community. I have been able to deliver an Aging 101 resource-rich presentation in Church Communities across the State which also has been able to encourage dialogue on the blessings and spiritual questions of aging.

How does the work of the MCOA align with your organization's mission?

Well the organizational cliché goes, "no margin, no mission" but it's getting to be "no people, no mission." A key component of our mission is providing innovative community-based services in all parts of Maine's sixteen counties and the workforce shortage is our biggest challenge. I appreciate that MCOA is dedicated to effective advocacy on this issue.

What are some ways that other MCOA Members can collaborate to support your work?

Clearly sharing ideas about and partnering around workforce and volunteers, as we have the same challenges recruiting for our volunteer programs. I also believe that our collective work as Council Members is to see and call out Ageism. Sensitizing people around Ageism could change some of our challenges as an aging state into opportunities.

We are honored to have Don serve on the MCOA Board of Directors. To find out more about our wonderful Board, [click here](#) - and stay tuned each month for the next Board Member Highlight!

Member & Partner News + Updates

Making Census 2020 Count in Your Community

Tuesday, February 25th, 2020 | 12:00 to 1:30 PM

Webinar Presented by [Tri-State Learning Collaborative on Aging](#)



On Tuesday, February 25 from 12:00-1:30 we will hear from US Census 2020 partnership specialists from Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. They will explain how Census 2020 is working in our region to make sure the count is as accurate as possible and to make sure people are protected from fraud.

2020 is a year of change. This will be the first year that people will have the opportunity to fill the Census in on-line. People who live in rural areas and who are either very old or very young are at the most risk for not being counted.

An accurate count has funding ramifications for the next decade. However, with new methods of collecting data come new opportunities for fraud. Learn what information will — and won't — be asked and how the information will be collected to help you to protect yourself and others from becoming the victim of fraudsters who see the census as an opportunity to steal money and identity from hapless victims.

The findings of Census 2020 can increase opportunities for older people to have a good life, access to needed health care, and services we need to live our best lives. Join us to learn how age-friendly organizations and lifelong communities can do their part to protect people from fraud and make sure that everyone is counted.

[Click Here to Register](#)

MCOA is excited to announce our new webpage:

http://mainecouncilonaging.org/census_2020/

Click the link above to find out more about the 2020 Census, what you need to know, how you can help, and access resources and materials

SENIOR HOUSING BOND FUNDS AWARDED BY MAINEHOUSING, DRIVES OVER \$45.8 MILLION FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING & MAINE’S ECONOMY

MaineHousing has awarded \$14.5 million of the senior housing bond approved by voters in 2015 and signed by Governor Janet Mills in 2019. The bond, combined with MaineHousing resources and other funds, will generate over \$45.8 million to build 212 new affordable housing units for Mainers aged 55 and older.

“These awards are another welcome step forward for older Mainers,” **said Governor Janet Mills**. “The construction of these new homes, along with the repair and weatherization of existing homes, will ensure that more Maine seniors can live safely, comfortably, and with dignity as they age. I am proud to have signed these long-overdue, voter-approved bonds and look forward to the communities they help create.”

Seven development projects were selected, four of which are in rural communities.

“Older Mainers need quality, accessible homes they can afford,” **said MaineHousing Director Daniel Brennan**. “The need is substantial. We’re hitting the ground running in the new year and are looking forward to putting these funds to work.”

Development & Location	Developer	# of Units
The Uplands, Scarborough	Developers Collaborative	39
Bessey School II, Scarborough	Housing Initiatives of New England	40
Hartland Senior Living, Hartland	KVCAP	30
Ellsworth Senior Housing, Ellsworth	Developers Collaborative	29
Belfast Senior Housing, Belfast	Developers Collaborative	25
Belfast Acres Estates, Belfast	Realty Resources	24
Willow Springs, Farmington	Avesta Housing	25

The \$15 million senior housing bond was approved by nearly 70 percent of Maine voters in a statewide referendum in 2015. The housing bond funds included \$500,000 allocated to home repair and weatherization services for existing homes.

“We’re grateful to Governor Mills for signing the bond – it puts a significant amount of money into Maine’s economy and builds much-needed housing,” **Brennan continued**. “And we’re proud to work with our partners to build the vibrant, thriving communities older Mainers need and deserve.”

The awards follow MaineHousing’s recent announcement of federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit awards, which will build or preserve 317 housing units, 275 of which are affordable. The combination of the two awards results in 487 new or preserved affordable housing units for Mainers.

MaineHousing has helped Maine people own, rent, repair, and heat their homes since 1969. MaineHousing is an independent state authority created to address the problems of unsafe, unsuitable, overcrowded, and unaffordable housing. MaineHousing is a \$1.8 billion financial institution with a staff of over 160 people. MaineHousing assists more than 90,000 Maine households and invests more than \$300 million in the Maine economy annually. For more information, visit mainehousing.org.

Best Practice Caregiving – A new resource for organizations that support family caregivers

Check out this new online resource developed for organizations that support family members and friends caring for people living with dementia.

[Best Practice Caregiving](#), a free web-based database, provides organizations that serve caregivers with a tool to easily compare and select evidence-based programs for dementia caregiving. It serves as a single source of detailed information on more than 40 programs from across the U.S.

Three years in the making, this project is a product of the collaboration among three leading organizations in the field of aging and caregiving:

- Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging, Center for Research & Education
 - Family Caregiver Alliance: National Center on Caregiving
 - The Gerontological Society of America
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Registration Now Open for the 2020 Care Partner Summit

This National Caregiver Month, check out the third international bilingual [2020 Care Partner Summit | Cumbre Para Cuidadores](#).

Join in from anywhere in the world on May 16, 2020 as we celebrate all care partners! The Summit is designed with care partners in mind and is recommended for anyone caring for someone living with Parkinson's disease (PD), including spouses, partners, adult children or friends.

The event will be recorded and broadcast in English and Spanish live from Miami, FL. All presentations will be livestreamed to Parkinson's Foundation viewing parties, taking place around the country.

Every session features an expert speaker on topics chosen by a committee of current and former care partners. This year, the theme is "Planning for the Unpredictable Path of Parkinson's Caregiving"

To register and learn more about the [2020 Care Partner Summit | Cumbre para Cuidadores](#), please visit Parkinson.org/Summit.

In case you missed it:

Thanks Town & Country Federal Credit Union Maine for prioritizing affordable housing in Maine as a 2020 resolution! We're proud to have you as a member! [Read more here.](#)

On a mission to create a more age-friendly South Portland. [Read More Here.](#)

The Maine Event covered the Commission to Study Long Term Care Workforce Issues. The MCOA advanced legislation to create the Commission and will do all that we can to see that their recommendations are implemented. [Click here to watch The Maine Event Episode](#)

We're excited to announce the launch of our Project ECHO - "Enhancing the Care and Health of Older Adults Living with Dementia and their Care Partners"- ECHO-D. [Read more here on the TSLCA's Living Well With Dementia page.](#)

Do you have an event you would like to share with fellow MCOA Members?

[Click here to let us know about it!](#)

Maine Council on Aging | PO Box 988, Brunswick, ME 04011 | 207-592-9972

