

MCOA News- *Abbreviated Version*

Go to www.mcoonline.com to read complete version

MCOA 116 Pleasant Street, Room 306, Easthampton MA 01027 tel: 413.527.6425 email: Janiece@mcoonline.com

Notes from the Executive Director: January 2010

Please Circulate to Your Staff

MCOA's Weather Cancellation Policy: As we 'enjoy' this winter season, MCOA would like to reiterate its weather cancellation policy. In the advent of inclement weather, MCOA may choose to cancel/ reschedule an event. **Attendees should call our telephone numbers for a recorded message on the status on any meeting, 24 hours prior to that meeting: 413.527.6425**

Changes to MCOA Publications: Effective Immediately Have You Read the Latest News?

The Latest News: MCOA Briefs, MCOA News, and Focal Points — The latest version of each are posted as links on MCOA's Home Page at www.mcoonline.com Please inform your staff and Board members of the changes listed below.

1. **MCOA Briefs** (our weekly info-sharing blast) is updated and posted by noon on Fridays – the first section contains new material, with items *Worth Repeating* listed at the end. Members will receive Briefs by email, but must go to our link to **print** MCOA Briefs.
2. **MCOA News** (our monthly newsletter) will be posted by the 15th of each month. Legislative Alerts, News, Member Requests, Surveys, UpComing Events, and Personnel Updates are regular columns in this publication. **Unless you previously indicated you wanted to get a hard copy of MCOA News — this will be your last hard copy issue — you must go online to read or download MCOA News starting 1/15/10. If you need a hard copy contact Peter Kubaska at Peter@mcoonline.com or at 413.527.6425.**
3. **Focal Points** (our biannual magazine) will be published in March and September in 2010. Member COAs will still receive 5 hard-copies by mail to distribute to elected officials *within* their community. All other members will receive one hard-copy. Focal Points will also be accessible online by March 15th and September 15th.

These changes will reduce our carbon footprint, save \$\$\$ on copying and postage, and potentially will lead to a wider audience as these documents will now be available to more readers online. Go to www.mcoonline.com — set us up as one of your "Favorites" pages, and check us out at least weekly for the most up-to-date info to help you with the operation of your COA. At our Home Page look for this section which dates and gives direct links to the latest publications.

— The Latest News —
MCOA Briefs – February 5
MCOA Newsletter — January 2010
Focal Points Fall 2009

Enclosed in the January 2010 Newsletter: Go to [www.mcoonline](http://www.mcoonline.com) for complete edition

- Important Municipal Funding Survey on Budget Cuts – Complete & Return
- Legislative Update including House 2 – The Governor's FY11 Budget Proposal
- MCOA has gone Paperless January 1st – Understand the Change
- Changes to the Ethics Law
- Kiosk Project Update, including Survey and Instructions to Download on to your Computer
- Home Oxygen Fire Safety Campaign Important Flyer for Consumers from the Fire Marshall on Home Oxygen Safety
This flyer is available to download in both b/w and color from our website at www.mcoonline.com
- MCOA Briefs including valuable web resources and News You Should Use
- Regular Columns: including Information for our Members, Upcoming Events, Member Inquiries/Requests, Personnel Updates, Job Opportunities, Grant Opportunities, Scam Alerts, Survey Requests...
- Info for the 2010 Federal Decennial Census
- Registration Form for the February 19, 2010 Membership Meeting

Upcoming Meetings: February 19th, 2010: See Attached Registration Form

MCOA Membership Meeting at the Milford COA – Program Choice Of:

- **Conflict of Interest** by Siobhan Coyle, Assistant General Counsel, EOEA
This session will cover basic issues regarding what constitutes conflict of interest and how you may be affected by the law during your routine activities and responsibilities.
- **EOEA & COA Overview** by Emmett Schmarsow, Program Manager, EOEA
This will include general duties, board/committee functions, program "best practices," senior center development and other topics (e.g., general survival strategies) that will undoubtedly arise. There will be time for Q&A.

Reservation Due February 15, 2010

MCOA
Membership Meeting
February 19, 2010 at the Milford's Senior Center

9:30 - 10am Registration

10am - 10:15 Business Meeting — Legislative Challenges

10:30 - 12:30pm Program Choice Of:

- **Conflict of Interest by Siobhan Coyle, Assistant General Counsel, EOE**
This session will cover basic issues regarding what constitutes conflict of interest and how you may be affected by the law during your routine activities and responsibilities.
- **EOEA & COA Overview by Emmett Schmarsow, Program Manager, EOE**
This will include general duties, board/committee functions, program "best practices," senior center development and other topics (e.g., general survival strategies) that will undoubtedly arise. There will be time for Q&A.

12:30 - 1:00pm Buffet Lunch: Roundtable Discussion Property Tax Work Off Program

1:00 - 2:30pm Committee Meetings:

Registration Deadline is Tuesday February 16th *(received by noon)

Registration Fees:	MCOA Members	\$20.00
	Non-members	\$40.00

Morning Meeting only \$10. (space and coffee – no lunch)

Note a Council on Aging or Agency is considered a member if their FY2010 Dues were paid or will be paid.

Registrant's Name	Council /Agency
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Number of Members Registered	_____	x \$20.00 =	_____
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Number of Non-members	_____	x \$40.00=	_____
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Morning Meeting Only	_____	x \$10.00=	_____
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Total Due	\$	_____
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Payment or Purchase Order should accompany registration form. Make checks payable to MCOA

Send to: MCOA 116 Pleasant Street - Room 306, Easthampton MA 01027-2740

Or call: (413) 527-6425

Or Fax: (413) 527-7138

Directions: Get to I-495 south of Mass Pike. Take Exit 20 and travel on Route 85 towards Milford. The road ends at a light which is Route 16. Take a Right and follow Rt. 16 thru two set of lights. At the third set of lights (City Hall in front on left) turn left on to North Bow Street. The COA is on your left about 1/4 down the street #60. If lost contact Milford COA at (508)473-8334

What MCOA Members Need to Know Now!

The Kiosk Project Goes Online: Good News — Our state website liaison was able to secure a shorter, friendlier direct URL name for the new *Civic Engagement: Work, Serve and Learn* website. It is www.mass.gov/elder/civicengagement. This will make it a bit easier for media outreach as well as linking consumers directly to it. Please check out this important website. Your comments are welcome.

We are now asking you to provide an on-site link to this website on a public computer at your senior center.

This site provides links and information on employment opportunities, civic engagement, lifelong learning, state and federal benefits, and available transportation. *This is a work in progress.* **Instructions on how to create a shortcut follow.** We have also included a short survey (originally emailed by Emmett Schmarsow/EOEA) to help us help you. Please complete and return. Also please thank Mary Kay Browne, Senior Project Director at EOEA for all her hard work. Comments to david@mcoaonline.com and Mary.K.Browne@state.ma.us

COA Internet Kiosk – Home Page Set Up for New Web Site titled “Civic Engagement: Work, Serve, and Learn”

www.mass.gov/elder/civicengagement

Civic engagement is a term that broadly encompasses work, volunteer service, participation in community events or political dialogue and lifelong learning activities.

This new *Civic Engagement: Work, Serve, and Learn* website was designed to help older adults connect more easily with the myriad websites that help people find jobs, volunteer opportunities, lifelong learning programs, ways to pay for life's necessities, and transportation providers to travel to and engage in these civic events. MCOA and member agency staff designed the site concept, with input from myriad stakeholders, and Elder Affairs staff built the content for the site.

Note: Your home page is the page that appears every time you open up Internet Explorer. The following instructions are for PCs which use Internet Explorer.

To select this new website as the Home Page for your COA's Internet Kiosk, do the following:

1. Go onto the Internet
2. Go to the “Civic Engagement: Work, Serve, and Learn” page with your browser.
<http://www.mass.gov/elder/civicengagement>
3. On the “Tools” menu, click “Internet Options”.
4. Click the “General” tab.
5. Under ‘Home Page’, click “Use Current”.
6. Click “OK”

Note: To restore your original home page, repeat steps 1-4 above but then, at step 5, click “Use Default”, and then finish with step 6.

COA Internet Kiosk – Home Page

for New Web Site titled

“Civic Engagement: Work, Serve, and Learn”

www.mass.gov/elder/civicengagement

Help Getting a Job

Would you like to get a new full-time job? Or perhaps a part time job to supplement your retiree income? Many jobs today use only the internet to post openings. These links will show you electronic job search techniques and tools and connect you with online job databases like Job Quest. It also provides you with information about the One-Stop Career Centers (OSCCs) and Unemployment Insurance (UI).

Service

Do you have the time now to give back to your community through volunteer service? Want to add your voice to the civic dialogue about the future of your town and of your state? Your talents and wisdom are needed by myriad organizations, commissions, and boards to help deliver services to others in need and to make Massachusetts a better place to live. This site will provide you with links to Connect & Serve and other volunteer matching websites, the Governor's boards and commissions application site, the Governor's Public Calendar of Events, and various service organizations.

Lifelong Learning

Education need not end after high school or college, since we can learn new techniques and concepts at any age. Also, advancing along your current career path or switching between different lines of work may require additional education or training. Our Lifelong Learning page provides you with information and resources regarding a wide range of opportunities for developing your skills and knowledge base, from community colleges to GED programs to lifelong learning institutes.

Paying for Life's Necessities

Our Paying for Life's Necessities provides links to sites that detail eligibility criteria for various federal, state, and local financial assistance programs. We will also direct you to search engines that specialize in finding the relevant local, state, and federal programs for your needs.

Transportation Planning

Our Transportation page will show you how to best utilize low-cost, convenient public transportation so you can go where you need to go, when you need to go there. Do you drive a car to work? If not, it is vital that you have an alternative means of transportation.

Council on Aging

Here you can find the phone number of your local Council on Aging, which may be able to provide you with additional assistance with all the topic areas listed above.