



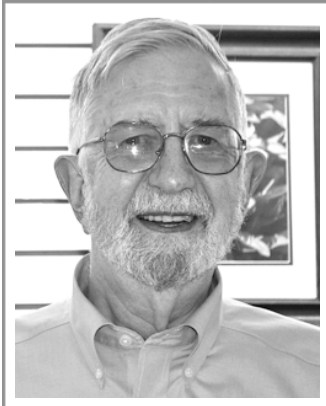
Massachusetts PATRIOT

Massachusetts Life Care Residents' Association (MLCRA) Fall 2016

The Residents' Advocate—Management's Friend www.mlcra.org

President's Message

MLCRA on an upward trajectory *by Will Holton, Springhouse, Boston*



MLCRA is on an upward trajectory now and you won't be getting doom-and-gloom or tough challenges from me this time. I do hope, however, that the good news about MLCRA's recent progress will

motivate more of our members to become involved with our important work. If you have ideas, contact me or any of our other board members.

Two Projects are Well Under Way:

Two MLCRA priorities are being pursued by new members of our Board: **Improvements to the MLCRA website** are being made by George Erickson from Brooksby Village in Peabody. He found excellent volunteer help from Patrick Gordon, a technician at the Brooksby Village television station. Mr. Gordon is willing to give George more help at a very reasonable rate. If any members have ideas for the website, they should email me about them for consideration by the Board. **A "rack card" to use in membership drives is being prepared by Kathy Berg** at The Overlook in Charlton. The basic information for prospective members will be printed on both sides of an attractive card.

The Overlook in Charlton has Growing MLCRA Membership:

Resident leaders at the Masonic community in Charlton near Sturbridge began attending MLCRA events a few years ago, and now MLCRA membership there is growing fast. They

have already passed the threshold to become an affiliated community member, and now they are enthusiastically running a membership drive. In September I had a very good lunch meeting at The Overlook with about 10 people, including the CEO and Residents Association president, Dick Ziegler. After lunch I attended a well-attended community meeting and spoke about the value of individual MLCRA memberships. (*cont'd on p. 2*)

Announcement

Change in Policy

At the August 2016 meeting of the MLCRA Board, it was decided that we will be more vigilant about how we distribute the *Patriot*. Currently, we have not been following up closely when memberships expire so that the *Patriot* has been sent without a membership subscription being paid. **This practice will stop now.**

After your name on your mailing label, you will see a number – 2016, 2020, and so forth. That number means that your membership expires at the end of December of that year. Now there will be notification, a stamp or sticker, on your Winter copy notifying you if you must renew your membership in order to continue receiving the *Patriot*. Please pay attention to the expiration date of your membership. You can always renew your membership individually using the form on p.11 of the *Patriot*.

Anyone who joins after September 1 will get membership for the three months of the year s/he joined, as well as the full year following. (For example, a person joining on September 6, 2016 will be paid through the end of December 2017).

President’s Message (cont’d from p.1)



Residents Meeting at The Overlook in Charlton

An Area Two and One Meeting Planned for November 2016

Plans are being finalized for a MLCRA Area Meeting at Southgate in Shrewsbury in mid-November. The date and other details will be sent out soon to the Association presidents and MLCRA representatives at the member communities in the Central and Western areas of the state. Some of the meeting, following our recent pattern, will be devoted to working groups from a variety of communities.

Now is the Time for Members Communities to Run Drives for 2017 Memberships.

Anyone who joins MLCRA between now and January of 2017 will be a member through

CONTENTS

Fuzzy at 105.....	3
MLCRA & Management.....	4
Newbury Court.....	5
Residents Rights.....	6
Flu Shots.....	6
Orchard Cove.....	7
Treating Other Residents.....	8
Board of Directors.....	10
Goals and Achievements.....	11
What is MLCRA.....	12

December 2017 or beyond. There is a membership form in this issue of the *Patriot*. Remember that you can join for one year (\$15), five years (\$75) or life (\$150). We all know there is strength in numbers.

New Ideas are Needed to Keep MLCRA Moving Ahead:

Board members have been mulling over possible projects for MLCRA in the near future. Two ideas are on my mind now. **An online “blog”** could help MLCRA members share ideas and concerns and get helpful responses from other members. A resident of The Overlook has started an internal blog there that is catching on.

An “Ombudsperson” Might Be Good for MLCRA because from time to time Board members are approached by members with concerns. Members at several communities raise questions about the prompt return of initial deposits when residents leave the community. In at least one community, new residents sign “agreements” that the management does not consider to be binding contracts. Perhaps it would be good for an ombudsperson to have a legal background. *What do our members think about these ideas— and others?* ●



Overlook Residents Peg Pedersen (l), Kathy Berg, and Shirley Pisarski (r) are Residents’ Council members. Kathy Berg is also a MLCRA Board Member at Large.

Photos:Will Holton