



Massachusetts PATRIOT

Massachusetts Life Care Residents Association (MLCRA) Winter 2015

The Residents's Advocate---Management's Friend

President's Message: MLCRA's Future Depends on Active Member Participation *Modest Gains Made by MLCRA in 2015*



Will Holton

future. There is a real danger that MLCRA will falter badly if our older leaders have to withdraw because of their failing health and no one steps up to lead this important organization.

The present MLCRA Board has tackled two problems in the past year: the need for more skilled help; and the increasing difficulty that board members and others have in traveling to meetings.

1. We have created a part-time administrative assistant position to help increase MLCRA membership, in more communities across Massachusetts, and to enhance communication within and between our four areas. We hope to fill this position soon.

2. We have pledged to pay the cost of transportation for MLCRA members to attend meetings. We will pay mileage costs for participants or neighbors who will drive them, or pay for professional drivers when required. We are also investigating how members could "attend" meetings virtually through Skype or

MLCRA has been successful in increasing its individual membership numbers and building up a healthy treasury to support our work. But that alone is not enough to insure success in the near

Go-To-Meeting.

MLCRA needs nominations now for May 2015 elections

But I must say that our success is not guaranteed over the next few years. Even more professional help could not take the place of voluntary leadership needed to fill the MLCRA offices and guide the organization into the future. Several good people must step forward now to run for office at our Annual Meeting on May 18, 2015 at NewBridge on the Charles.

Now I am calling on all MLCRA members to think about their own commitment to MLCRA.

Also, contact your neighbors who have the interest and energy to play active roles in our organization!

I have written the same words before in this column, and I wonder who is reading them and taking me seriously. Now I am calling on all MLCRA members to think about their own commitment to MLCRA. Also, contact your neighbors who have the interest and energy to play
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active roles in our organization! Approach potential board members in your community and have them call me (617-971-1614) or call me yourself to discuss possibilities. We have both elected offices and committee chair positions to fill.

Elected Offices that Must Be Filled:

Vice-President for Membership: This person will be supported by the part-time administrative assistant we expect to hire. The role will involve contacting MLCRA representatives and others in member communities and supporting them in running annual membership drives. MLCRA will also reach out to communities that are not now members so they will mount membership drives.

Vice-President for Areas: This person will work with MLCRA members in our four areas across Massachusetts to put on at least one Area Meeting there each year. Assistance will also be provided for increasing the communication among the communities in each area.

Recording Secretary: This person will take the minutes at each board meeting and prepare them for distribution to all board members.

Members-at-Large: These people will attend board meetings as voting members and take on projects that are developed by them with the MLCRA president.

Other Needs:

The **MLCRA Website** is in need of new leadership because Donald Stevenson is unable to be as active as before in MLCRA work. There must be MLCRA members who have developed and maintained websites. Other skills in electronic communications will also help MLCRA be more effective.

The **MLCRA Legislative Committee** has been led very capably by Angelo Giambusso but his

health is requiring him to take a less active role in that work in the future.

The Bottom Line is this: No matter how many people pay their dues of \$15 per year, MLCRA must have more active leaders to fulfill its mission. Please email me (wilfredholton@comcast.net) or call (617-971-1614) to discuss your ideas on how to solve this critical problem.●

***Save the Date!***

Residents Association Presidents and
MLCRA Representatives:

The MLCRA Annual Meeting May 18, 2015

The MLCRA 2015 Annual Meeting will be held at NewBridge on the Charles in Dedham on Monday, May 18, 2015. NewBridge is very close to Routes I-95 and 128, not far south of the Mass. Pike (I-90). The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and muffins, and end around 3:00 p.m. The keynote address will be followed by a light working lunch and the annual business meeting with elections of new officers.

The MLCRA Annual Meetings involve the MLCRA Board members and two voting representatives from each of our member communities. The representatives are usually the Resident Association president and the MLCRA representative. It is very important for other residents to come as substitutes if those leaders are unable to attend. Resident leaders of non-member communities will also be invited so we can introduce them to the work of MLCRA. MLCRA will cover the travel expenses for representatives attending the annual meeting.