



Massachusetts PATRIOT

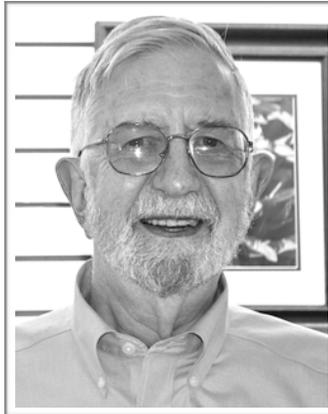
Massachusetts Life Care Residents' Association (MLCRA) SPRING 2017

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

President's Message by *Will Holton, Springhouse, Boston*

MLCRA'S News and Upcoming Changes in Leadership

Recent Accomplishments:



MLCRA has had a good year since its Annual Meeting last May. The *Patriot* continues to give us an excellent means of communication for our organization. Sheila McMahon and her team would like more input from the

800+ members across the state: write letters and contribute short articles, please. George Erickson, one of our newest Board members, has improved our website after taking it over. If you have suggestions for more website content, or for links to other websites, let me know and I will pass them on to George. Board member Kathy Berg has prepared a "rack card" with basic information about MLCRA that will help us recruit new members.

Two productive Area Meetings were held during the past year, one for Areas 1 and and 2 in the

central and western parts of the state and one for Areas 3 and 4. At each meeting we had an outside speaker and spent about two hours in roundtable work groups identifying issues that MLCRA should work on in the future. Those meetings have been reported on in previous issues of the *Patriot*.

Several members of the MCRA Board reviewed and contributed to the draft of a handbook for elders and their family members who are considering CCRCs in Massachusetts. That new free document is now available online from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs (<http://www.mass.gov/elders/programs-and-services.html>). Our members should read it and recommend it to others who are looking into living in CCRCs.

The MLCRA Board has been preparing a survey on the ways that returnable fees are handled in the CCRCs in Massachusetts. This survey will go out to the resident association or council presidents and MLCRA Representatives (*cont'd on p. 2*)

CONTENTS

Annual Meeting.....	3
NaCCRA Changes.....	4
Refund Nightmare.....	5
Functioning Changes.....	6
New Elder Coalition.....	7
Discharge Rights.....	7
Environment.....	8
Electronic Banking Bill.....	8
Board of Directors.....	10
Goals and Achievements.....	11
What is MLCRA?.....	12

SAVE THE DAY!

MLCRA ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

OVERLOOK IN CHARLTON

**SPEAKER: Mike Firestone
chief of staff to**

Attorney General Maura Healey

President's Message (cont'd from p. 1)

who can get some help with collecting information from management in their communities. There seem to be variations in policies, including whether these fees are returned when residents move from an Independent Living unit to another section of the community on a fee-for-service basis.

Whoever is our next President will need to have these offices (Vice President for Areas or the Vice President for Membership) filled.

MLCRA's treasury is very healthy, thanks in large part to the hard work of our treasurer, Jeanne Stolbach. She keeps the records faithfully and prepares a detailed report of membership by community for every Board meeting.

My Workload for MLCRA Must be Reduced:

I am completing four years as your President. I have been glad to work with a few good people on carrying out MLCRA's mission, and I think that the organization has made considerable progress over this time period. In recent months, however, it has become clearer that I will not be able to continue as the MLCRA President in 2017 and beyond. Personal reasons have made it impossible for me to spend as much time on important projects and things have fallen through the cracks. Recently I have had to cut back on speaking at member communities. I thank Kathy Berg, a Board member, for agreeing to fill in for me at a community in her area to speak at their annual meeting.

A key problem since I have been President of MLCRA is that no one has agreed to serve as either the Vice President for Areas or the Vice President for Membership. Much of the work on area meetings and communications with member communities, and on helping with membership drives has fallen on my shoulders. I have not been able to complete enough of the work that those two officers would have done to serve our organization well. Whoever is our next President will need to have these offices filled and have more At-Large Board Members to take on small amounts of work.

I might agree to continue in support of our new President, taking on a project such as the surveys that we have been planning for about a year. Please help us rethink the functions that will make MLCRA stronger in the coming years. MLCRA has a very important mission for the many members of MLCRA and for communities that are not active with us now. More of us have to step up and help.

If you have ideas about the future leadership of MLCRA, please contact me or any of the Board members to discuss this important matter. The phone numbers and email addresses are included on page 10 of this Patriot. ●

We Apologize!!!

In our article about the Area 2 meeting at Southgate last November, we neglected to include Lasell Village as one of the communities that attended. Undoubtedly the result of an aging brain.

Sorry! Lasell was a major presence at the event and Bill Dill was even one of the people who signed up to help the *Patriot*.

—The Editor