

# "The Senior Outlook"

..... A Quarterly Publication of the .....

## Older Iowans Legislature

*Pursuing Quality of Life for Iowa's Senior Citizens for the past 34 years  
Iowa's ONLY Independent Voice for Iowa's Rapidly Growing Body of Senior Citizens*

5835 Grand Avenue – Ste. 106 – Des Moines, IA 50312 - [www.olderiowans.org](http://www.olderiowans.org) PH: (515) 633-9534  
News & Views – From the Older Iowans Legislature - MAY 2011 Issue # 18

### “IN THIS ISSUE”

- Chair's Corner – Message from Ron Donald
- Donna Harvey – Iowa Dept. on Aging Director
- IDA/ Connecting with Our Communities
- Older Americans Month
- OIL Legislative Report
- OIL State Board working for seniors
- Elder Abuse in Iowa/ Elder Abuse Initiative
- Letter from the Editor of OIL News
- Professional Members – OIL's Shining Stars
- Welcome – Northland Area Agency on Aging
- Farewell to a loyal supporter
- Introducing Mike Isaacson – Hawkeye Valley
- Family Conflict & the “50/50 Rule”
- Iowa AARP 2011 Survey of Older Iowans
- Federal Government Resources for Seniors
- Special Needs Assistance
  - Spring: Gardening for all abilities
  - UERS: Used Medical buy & sell
- OIL 2011 Legislative Session – Sept. 26/27<sup>th</sup>
- How YOU can Support YOUR OIL
- Stage OIL Board of Directors



#### **OIL Mission Statement:**

The Older Iowans Legislature is a non-profit corporation registered in the State of Iowa. Our primary

purpose is to improve the quality of life of Iowa's Seniors. We place special emphasis on the frail elderly; those citizens who have contributed much to our society, but have exhausted their resources and are in need of assistance to lead meaningful lives.

### Chair's Corner



Your State Board has been active in preparing for the 2011 State Session. Some changes that have been planned are that the 2011 session will be Mon. Sept. 26 and Tues. Sept. 27.

The Monday meeting will convene at noon allowing delegates to drive in Monday morning eliminating one night's hotel cost. We are exploring a “Dutch treat” dinner Monday evening. This will allow for increased social interaction among the delegates.

Mike Otto from Paulina has agreed to be our Public Relations chair. Press releases will be coordinated between Ron Jome and Mike.

It has been suggested that O.I.L. reduce the voting age to 50. This was defeated two years ago, but still has a lot of support. It seems counterproductive that we allow younger people to join and pay dues but will not allow them voting privileges. I'm sure we have not heard the last of this issue.

On a sad note, Eve Casserly has submitted her resignation as Newsletter Editor. We appreciate all Eve has done and continues to do that supports Iowans frail elderly. If you are interested in learning more about the position of newsletter editor, please contact Ron Jome or myself. The newsletter is an important communication tool. We certainly do not want to lose it.

It is time to start thinking about Bills for the 2011 Legislative Session. They need to be submitted to Ron Jome by July 11<sup>th</sup>.

Think Spring  
Ron Donald, OIL State Chair



I am delighted to be appointed as the Director of the Department on Aging. I take this challenge as an opportunity to continue to be a strong advocate for Iowa's elders, work cooperatively with other aging advocacy groups such as O.I.L., spend time "listening" to local issues and finding ways that this

Department might have some role is enhancing the lives of older persons, caregivers, and through the Aging and Disability Resource Centers, persons with disabilities. I believe the opportunities are many ... along with the challenges. One of the biggest changes the network has experienced in many years will be to fulfill the charge contained within HF 45 to reduce the number of area agencies on aging. We are already planning meetings with the area agencies on aging, their Board leadership, and the Commission on Aging to establish the best process we can to improve delivery of services and increase advocacy as required of the aging network through the Older Americans Act and Iowa law. I look forward to working with all of you!

*Donna K. Harvey*

Director, Iowa Department on Aging  
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515-725-3301 office; 515-339-4694 mobile  
Visit our website at [www.aging.iowa.gov](http://www.aging.iowa.gov)

**May** is Older Americans Month and a good time to remind Iowans about the important work our Area Agencies on Aging do.



The theme of the 2011 Older Americans Month is **Older Americans: Connecting the Community**. There is no doubt that our treasured older Iowans enhance the communities they live in. With resident stability, a unique historical perspective and the economic impact they have on local businesses, they make our communities safe, worthwhile places to work, raise our families and age in place as we get older.

Older Iowans want to feel connected to their communities to maximize their independence and thrive in the comfort of their own homes and the company of their neighbors.

The Iowa Department on Aging funds Area Agencies on Aging that provide needed resources that help older adults improve their lives in their communities giving them the chance to live healthier and more independent. Area Agencies on Aging can provide over forty services and supports such as: home delivered meals; home health care; chore services and transportation needs.

As we celebrate May as **Older Americans Month**, let's continue to strive to make our communities rich with

diversity and opportunities for our older citizens and their neighbors.

To contact your local Area Agency on Aging, call (toll free) 866-468-7887.

*Machelle Shaffer, Iowa Department on Aging*



## **Older Americans Month: Connecting the Community.**

Older Americans Month is an occasion to show appreciation and support for our seniors as they continue to enrich and strengthen our communities. This year's theme—Older Americans: Connecting the Community—pays homage to the many ways in which older adults bring inspiration and continuity to the fabric of our communities, and highlights how technology is helping older Americans live longer, healthier, and more engaged lives. When Older Americans Month was established in 1963, only 17 million living Americans had reached their 65th birthdays. About a third of older Americans lived in poverty and there were few programs to meet their needs. Interest in older Americans and their concerns was growing, however. Today's OAM themes reflect lengthening life span and unprecedented multiple generations of 'older Americans'. Assuming that "senior" is 65+, there will be 71.5 million by 2030. Life span and baby boomer encroachment are driving other changes as well.

## **OIL Legislative Report: April 8, 2011**

Members and friends of the Older Iowans Legislature, Bills in the 2011 session of the 84<sup>th</sup> Iowa General Assembly that are of interest to the Older Iowans Legislature are listed below in four categories:

- Senate Files/House Files enacted in 2011 session
- Senate Files/House Files near enactment
- 2010 OIL priorities "still alive" in Senate Appropriations Committee
- Other Senate Files/House Files "still alive" in appropriations and ways & means committees

Four bills were passed almost unanimously:

- \* HF 390: Alzheimer's disease response strategy
- \* HF 404: Prepaid funeral expenses in trust
- \* HF 537: Decertification of assisted living facilities
- \* SF 495: Duties of long-term care ombudsman
- \* HF 649 (funding for health and human services

including department on aging) passed the House by a vote of 56 to 40, after most of the ... amendments lost. HF 649 now heads to the Senate.

*Ron Jome, Secretary, Board of Directors,  
Older Iowans Legislature*

## **SENATE FILES/HOUSE FILES ENACTED IN 2011 SESSION**

**House File 45:** relating to public funding and regulatory matters and making, reducing, and transferring appropriations and revising fund amounts and including effective, retroactive, and other applicability date provisions, and making penalties applicable. "Sec. 20. DEPARTMENT ON AGING— PLAN FOR REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF AREA AGENCIES ON AGING. The department on aging shall develop a plan for reducing the number of area agencies on aging in the state, to be effective beginning July 1, 2012. The department shall submit the plan to the standing committees on human resources of the senate and the house of representatives and the joint appropriations subcommittee on health and human services on or before December 15, 2011."

**House File 390:** A bill for an act relating to an Alzheimer's disease response strategy. "This bill directs the department of public health (DPH) to convene a stakeholder workgroup to design a strategy to respond to the needs of Iowans with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia."

**House File 404:** A bill for an act relating to payments for prepaid cemetery and funeral merchandise, and funeral services that are required to be placed in trust or secured by a surety bond. "This bill requires that all payments made pursuant to a nonguaranteed purchase agreement for cemetery merchandise, funeral merchandise, funeral services, or a combination thereof, where performance or delivery under the agreement may be more than 120 days following initial payment on the account, must be placed in trust or secured by a surety bond in that amount."

**House File 537:** A bill for an act relating to voluntary cessation of program operations and decertification of assisted living programs, and providing penalties. "The bill directs the department of inspections and appeals to adopt rules regarding the voluntary cessation of program operations of an assisted living program, including decertification."

## **SENATE FILES/HOUSE FILES NEAR ENACTMENT**

**Senate File 495:** A bill for an act relating to the long-term care ombudsman program. (Formerly Senate Study Bill 1184). "The bill establishes the duties of the state long-term care ombudsman, the department on aging, and the commission on aging."

**House File 649:** A bill for an act relating to and making appropriations for health and human services and including other related provisions and appropriations, and including effective, retroactive, and applicability date provisions. "DEPARTMENT ON AGING. There is appropriated from the general fund of the state to the department on aging for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30, 2012, the following amount, or so much thereof as is necessary, to be used for the purposes designated:,,,,,,,\$9,852,577"

## **2010 OIL PRIORITIES "STILL ALIVE" IN SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

**Senate File 234:** This issue (parity reimbursement for home and community based services) was the First Priority Bill of the 2010 Older Iowans Legislature.

**Senate File 119:** A bill for an act relating to the creation of and use of moneys in a home and community based services trust fund and making an appropriation. This issue (senior living home and community based service fund) was the Second Priority Bill of the 2010 Older Iowans Legislature.

**Senate File 127:** A bill for an act relating to and making an appropriation for the case management program for the frail elderly. This issue (meeting unmet needs of frail elders) was the Third Priority Bill of the 2010 Older Iowans Legislature.

## **OTHER SENATE FILES/HOUSE FILES "STILL ALIVE" IN APPROPRIATIONS AND WAYS & MEANS**

**House File 259:** A bill for an act relating to a property assessment adjustment for certain persons, applying income and age limitations, providing a penalty, and including retroactive and other applicability provisions. This bill provides for an adjustment in the assessed value of a homestead if the owner is a person who is 65 or older and whose household income is \$25,000 or less."

**House File 164:** A bill for an act establishing a property tax exemption for a principal residence owned by a totally disabled individual or certain elderly individuals and including applicability provisions.

**Senate File 107:** A bill for an act providing a property assessment adjustment for certain property of persons who have attained the age of sixty-five, providing a penalty, and including retroactive and other applicability provisions.

**House File 87:** A bill for an act revising appropriations and allocations for certain health and human services, and including effective date and retroactive applicability provisions.

**House File 47:** A bill for an act repealing the state inheritance tax and the state qualified use inheritance tax.

**Senate File 16:** A bill for an act providing a property assessment adjustment for certain persons who have attained the age of seventy, providing a penalty, and including retroactive and other applicability provisions.

## February OIL Board of Directors Meeting

*(A Synopsis of the Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> OIL State Board Meeting)*

### **MINUTES of the Older Iowans Legislature Board of Directors Meeting – Monday Feb. 28, 2011 – 5835 Grand Avenue – Suite 106 – Des Moines, IA.**

Present: Ron Donald, Chair, SE; Joy Eden, Vice-Chair, South; Ron Jome, Secretary, Central; Francis Thom, Treasurer, S-SE; Bob Welsh, SE; Harvey Martens, Central. Not present: Mike Otto, NW; Neil Wubben, N; Diane Naujokaitis, SW. Others— member Jack Schneiders, Central District.

Chairperson Ron Donald convened the meeting at 10:00 am. The minutes of the October 26, 2010 meeting of the OIL Board of Directors were approved as written.

**Treasurer's report** of period 10/26/2010 to 02/28-2011 was presented by Francis Thom and approved by the Board.

|                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| Starting balance | -\$12,085.79  |
| Receipts         | - \$ 1,350.00 |
| Expenses         | - \$ 2,165.23 |
| Ending balance   | - \$11,270.56 |

The Board approved paying two additional expenses:

\* \$265.69 payable to Ron Donald for plastic "Older Iowans Legislature" clips that he purchased by personal credit card

\* \$120.00 payable to daWoods Web Design & Development for the Older Iowans Legislature website updating from September 2010 until September 2011

### **Discussion of professional memberships in OIL:**

Board approved a motion directing the secretary and the treasurer to prepare a cover letter thanking the organizations for being professional members for 2010, explaining that the fiscal year for OIL is January 1 until December 31, and inviting the organizations to consider repeating as professional members in 2011. The professional members for 2011, to date, are Area XIV AAA and Generations AAA.

### **Discussion of individual memberships in OIL:**

\* The current membership list of the Older Iowans Legislature includes members who are paid up for 2011, members paid up through 2010, members who last paid in 2009, and members who last paid in 2008.

\* Action proposed: Contact the individuals who had last paid in 2009 or 2010 and ask them to consider renewing their memberships for 2011.

\* The Board of Directors approved the deletion from the membership list of those individuals who have not renewed membership since 2008.

### **Legislative Reports:**

\* Secretary Ron Jome reported on delivering the plastic clips printed with "Older Iowans Legislature" to each Senator and each Representative on January 18, 2011. Each of the 150 lawmakers received a copy of the three Top Priority OIL Bills of 2010 and a cover letter, all held together with the "Older Iowans Legislature" plastic clip.

\* Senate File 238, Senate File 119, and Senate File 127 are modeled after the Priority Bills of the 2010 Older Iowans Legislature and, as of today, are referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

\* The OIL Board of Directors is not pleased with the administration's proposal to reduce the number of nursing home inspectors in the next few months. SE announced a Johnson County meeting on March 14th with Rod Roberts, the head of the Department of Inspections and Appeals. OIL Chair Ron Donald will prepare a letter to Director Roberts urging the Department of Inspections and Appeals to not reduce the number of nursing home inspectors.

\* Harvey Martens discussed the importance of supporting property tax bills that provide an assessment adjustment for low income home owners who are 65 or older. Harvey also discussed the importance of supporting Iowa caregiver programs.

\* Jack Schneiders discussed the importance of objecting to proposed cuts in human services that will create a huge case load for each case worker who is left employed after the threatened dismissal of "unneeded" human services employees.

### **District Reports:**

- \* Harvey Martens presented ideas for strengthening Central District of OIL: arrange recruiting programs for OIL at Polk County senior centers.
- \* Francis Thom reported from South-Southeast District.
- \* Joy Eden reported from South District of OIL.
- \* Ron Donald reported from Southeast District of OIL.

### **Tentative plans for the 2011 Older Iowans**

#### **Legislature session:**

\* **Monday September 26 and Tuesday September 27,** 2011 in the House Chamber of the Iowa State Capitol.

#### \* **Suggested time schedule:**

**Monday September 26:** gavel in at 12 noon with comments from the guest speaker at 1:00 pm. Committee chairs will meet earlier (perhaps 11:30 am). Committees will meet to evaluate bills from 2:00 pm until 4:30 pm. A "Dutch treat" meal and gathering will be held at the Holiday Inn for socializing

**Tuesday September 27:** gavel in at 8:30 am for the House floor session of the Older Iowans Legislature. OIL session will enact bills and elect the Priority Bills of 2011. The annual meeting of the Older Iowans Legislature will convene after the adjournment of the legislative session.

- \* Can Older Iowans Legislature get a "state rate" for room rental at the Holiday Inn in Des Moines?

### **Drafting and submitting OIL bills for the 2011 legislative session**

\* The Board of Directors suggests that members start drafting 2011 OIL bills on April 30, 2011, the day after the 2011 session of the Iowa General Assembly tentatively adjourns on April 29.

\* The Board set July 11, 2011 as the due date for drafts of OIL bills for the September 26-27 legislative session.

\* The Board urges collaboration with Senators, Representatives, AAA's, IAA, and other advocacy groups to write meaningful bills for the 2011 Older Iowans Legislature. Continuing funding for elder care is needed EVERY year and perhaps OIL should consider "omnibus bills". Chair Ron Donald will draft letters for contacting potential collaborators.

### **Discussion of providing reimbursements for travel expenses to the 2011 OIL session**

\* Treasurer Thom presented a budget proposal for 2010-2011 that provides for reimbursement of mileage for Board members and for delegates to the OIL sessions of \$0.37 per mile over 100 miles.

\* Board of Directors approved a motion to provide

reimbursement of \$0.37 per mile for the total round trip mileage **less 100 miles** to the drivers of vehicles going to the 2011 session of the Older Iowans Legislature on September 26-27, 2011. Vouchers for mileage payment will be submitted to Treasurer Thom. This approved motion to pay mileage is for the 2011 OIL session only. Delegates are encouraged to car pool.

**News Letter :** Congratulations to Editor Eve Casserly & the OIL Newsletter Team for a great job publishing "The Senior Outlook", A Quarterly Publication of the Older Iowans Legislature. Thanks Team!

**Web Page:** [www.olderiowans.org](http://www.olderiowans.org) - During this meeting, Chair Ron Donald phoned Kevin Crawley at daWoods Web Design & Development and arranged for updated material to be sent to the Older Iowans Legislature website. Secretary Ron Jome will send updated information to Kevin for the OIL website at [www.olderiowans.org](http://www.olderiowans.org).

### **Other ideas for promotion of the Older Iowans Legislature:**

- \* Continued suggestion that the Older Iowans Legislature might increase its advocacy potential by collaborating with other advocacy groups and with AAA's.
- \* Need for writers of press releases that can be forwarded to area newspapers
- \* Shall OIL members again try to amend the By-Laws to lower the membership age requirement to age 55? This will require By-Law amendment approval by two consecutive annual meetings.

**Next Meeting:** Suggested date of the next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Older Iowans Legislature is **Monday July 25, 2011** at 5835 Grand Avenue in Des Moines starting at 10:00 am.

*Respectfully submitted by Ron Jome, Secretary*



## **Elder Abuse Initiative**

In 2002, the Iowa Department on Aging launched the Elder Abuse Initiative (EAI) which is available in 22 counties statewide. This partnership with Area Agencies on Aging, the Department of Human Services, and other stakeholders in the community provides enhanced prevention, detection, and reporting of elder abuse while also offering local advocacy and system coordination to ensure the protection of Iowa's Seniors.

Within the Heritage Area Agency on Aging, the Elder Abuse Initiative operates by means of a Regional Protective Services Coordinator. Service is available in Linn, Johnson, Cedar, and Jones counties. Other referrals will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. When a referral is received, the Regional Protective Services Coordinator gathers information and determines whether the referral is appropriate for EAI, then a Protective Services Specialist will contact the client to make an assessment of needs, identify potential or real risk, provide an evaluation of dependency, and coordinate service delivery. The efforts of the Elder Abuse Initiative have been to:

- Assist the Department of Human Services in assessing the service needs and level of dependency of person's 60 and over;
- Allow for interventions by the aging network in cases that may not be abuse under the law;
- Introduce vulnerable, at-risk older adults to the aging service network via outreach efforts;
- Utilize funds provided through the Older Americans Act to allow individuals to safely remain in their home;
- Provide community awareness about elder abuse and the solutions the Elder Abuse Initiative can offer.

According to Iowa Code, dependent adult abuse includes the following criteria: a dependent adult, a caretaker, and an allegation of abuse recognized by Iowa Code 235B or 235E. A Dependent Adult is defined as a person age 18 years of age or older who is unable to protect his/her own interests OR in unable to adequately perform OR obtain services necessary to meet essential human needs, as a result of a physical OR mental condition which requires assistance from another, or as defined by department rule. A Caretaker is a related or non-related person who has the responsibility for the protection, care, or custody of a dependent adult as a result of assuming the responsibility voluntarily, by contract, through employment, or by order of the court. It's important to note that not all elder abuse cases are dependent adult abuse cases and not all dependent adult abuse cases are elder abuse cases.

Elder Abuse has six categories: 1) Denial of Critical Care by a Caretaker; 2) Self-Denial of Critical Care; 3) Financial Exploitation; 4) Sexual Abuse and Exploitation; 5) Physical Abuse; and 6) Emotional / Psychological Abuse

**Warning Signs of Possible Abuse:**

- \* Lack of heat and/or water, unsanitary, or hazardous

- conditions
  - \* Lack of clothing to provide protection from the weather
  - \* Lack of cleanliness, grooming, personal, or medical care
  - \* Advancing memory difficulties, confusion
  - \* Significant weight loss, malnutrition, dehydration
  - \* Unexplained injuries or injuries inconsistent with the explanation
  - \* Withdrawal, depression, or isolation
  - \* Mail / newspaper not collected
  - \* Caretaker is evasive about financial arrangements, unusual activity in bank accounts, unpaid bills, new poverty
- For questions or to refer a client to the Elder Abuse Initiative, contact Tracey Robertson, Regional Protective Services Coordinator, The Heritage Agency, at 319-398-5559 or email [tracey.robertson@kirkwood.edu](mailto:tracey.robertson@kirkwood.edu)

To report suspected dependent adult abuse, call 800-362-2178.



Click on the following link to hear an actual interview about elder abuse and the NEW Older Adult Death Review Team with Iowa Public Radio:  
<http://iowapublicradio.org/newsroom.php> Then click on "Listen" under the story "Task Force Takes Aim at Elder Abuse." (scroll down to the original air date of 3-18-11 to locate it on the website)  
 submitted by Tracey Roberson  
 Regional Protective Services Coordinator  
 Heritage Area Agency on Aging.



**& a LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:**

**To the readers of the Older Iowans Newsletter:** After writing this quarterly newsletter for around 4 1/2 years, a couple weeks ago I sent a note to our state chair, Ron

Donald and the state officers announcing my resignation as editor. I told Ron I would be willing to do the August issue also if no one else is available to do it, but that would be the end. I have truly enjoyed doing this, however presently have too many things on my plate coming from a variety of areas. This has been a good experience - also a fine way to figure out how to use my computer - and I have appreciated the support that has come from folks like Ron Donald, Ron Jome, Francis Thom, Jean Oxley, Lila Kramer, Dave Cavey, Carl Boley, Anita Terpstra, Betty Kelly, Leta Wall and so many more...and of course my dear old pal, the late great Janet Boley.

*Best wishes, Eve Casserly*



**OIL's Senior SHINING STAR Agencies:** OIL proudly acknowledges the following Iowa Senior-serving agencies presently listed as "**PROFESSIONAL MEMBER**" supporters of the **Older Iowans Legislature:**

- Aging Resources of Central Iowa
- Area XIV Agency on Aging
- Generations Area Agency on Aging
- Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging
- Heritage Area Agency on Aging
- Home Instead Senior Care of Iowa
- Northland Area Agency on Aging
- Seneca Area Agency on Aging
- Siouxland Area Agency on Aging
- Southwest 8 Senior Services
- University of Iowa Center on Aging



**WELCOME – to Northland Area Agency on Aging** in Decorah. Northland is our **NEWEST Professional Member.**

~



**Farewell to a Loyal OIL Supporter:** We were very sorry to hear of the death of Cynthia Beauman, who passed away Saturday, Jan. 8, 2011, at a Sioux City hospital. A long time loyal member of OIL, Cynthia had served as executive director

of the Northwest Aging Association since 2000 and was seen at many OIL State Legislative Sessions in Des Moines. Memorials may be directed to the Northwest Aging Association Foundation.



**Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging**



**Aging** is pleased to announce the appointment of Mike Isaacson as the new Executive Director. Mike Isaacson was formerly the executive director of Community Based Services (CBS) based in Waverly, a position he held since 2006.

Mike is an active member of several non-profit boards. He received his bachelor's degree in social work and his master's degree in public policy from the University of Northern Iowa

Mike is replacing Donna Harvey, who was recently named the Executive Director for the Iowa

Department on Aging after heading up Hawkeye Valley AAA for more than 20 years.

Mike's passion for serving and his commitment to others will guide Hawkeye Valley. We will strive to continue to provide the excellent programs and services we have always offered to our seniors, their families and caregivers.

*Submitted by Janet Buls*

~



**Home Instead Senior Care** has created a resource solving family conflict and offer practical support services to develop open discussions between adult siblings in an effort to help them improve communication skills, develop teamwork, make decisions together and divide the workload in caring for aging parents.

The 50/50 Rule<sup>SM</sup> is designed to help adult siblings and their aging parents deal with those sensitive situations that arise among brothers and sisters as their parents age and need assistance. The guide covers a variety of sibling caregiving topics such as: How do you divide workload with your sister? What's the best way to build teamwork with your brothers? How can you reach agreement as a family on important topics to avoid family conflict?

Unpaid bills, Mom's shrinking retirement nest egg, heirloom squabbles, freeloading siblings, the devastating effects of a loved one with Alzheimer's disease... These are just a few of the family caregiving stresses that can fray relationships among siblings. What do you do when one family member seems more interested in preserving his future inheritance than in making sure Dad has the care he needs? Or what about the sister who drops in from out of state just long enough to undo the progress you made toward getting Mom to accept a little help around the house? There are ways to minimize family conflicts caused by these and similar real-life situations.

For more details visit [www.SolvingFamilyConflict.com](http://www.SolvingFamilyConflict.com)  
Article contributed by Steve Habenicht, CSA,  
Home Instead Senior Care of Bettendorf



**AARP 2011**

**Survey of Older Iowans\***

**Iowa Medicare Beneficiaries** 513,929

**Long Term Care Recipients in Iowa**

% receiving Home-Community Service 14%

% LT care recipients in Nursing Homes 86%

Est. number of Iowa Caregivers 450,000

- 80% of those 50+ surveyed favored stronger enforcement of standards in nursing homes

- 83% favored allowing funds now only used for nursing home care to also be used for long-term care that helps people stay in their own homes/communities.

**Social Security Beneficiaries** 574,315  
 Retirees: 388,139  
 Widow(er)s: 52,462  
 Disabled Workers: 68,425

### Retirement Security

- 33.6% of non-government workers aged 55-64 are without workplace retirement benefits.
- 21.4% of Social Security recipients rely on this for 90% or more of their total income
- 56.5% of Social Security recipients rely on this for 90% or more of their total income

### NOTE TO LEGISLATORS: Older Iowans VOTE!

72% of Iowa residents age 50+ voted in last election

\* Survey conducted by AARP Iowa from Jan 5-25, 2011

Editors Note: Congratulations to AARP's Iowa State Director Bruce Koeppl who has just been named Regional Vice President for AARP in the newly re-configured AARP Midwest Region (includes the states of Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois). Bruce will continue to live and work out of Des Moines. Congratulations and Best Wishes, Bruce.

Administration...[www.usa.gov/Topics/Seniors/FederalState.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Seniors/FederalState.shtml)

- **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren** Benefits and assistance, health and safety, state resources...  
[www.usa.gov/Topics/Grandparents.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Grandparents.shtml)
- **Health for Seniors** Disease, health care facilities, Medicare, nutrition  
...[www.usa.gov/Topics/Seniors/Health.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Seniors/Health.shtml)
- **Housing for Seniors** Reverse mortgages, in-home help, nursing home comparison, and more...  
[www.usa.gov/Topics/Seniors/Housing.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Seniors/Housing.shtml)
- **Laws and Regulations Concerning Seniors** Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Medicare Modernization Act, Social Security Act...  
[www.usa.gov/Topics/Seniors/Laws.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Seniors/Laws.shtml)
- **Money and Taxes for Seniors** Investing, tax counseling, estate planning...  
[www.usa.gov/Topics/Seniors/Taxes.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Seniors/Taxes.shtml)
- **Retirement** Pension plans, benefits calculator, retirement ages...  
[www.usa.gov/Topics/Seniors/Retirement.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Seniors/Retirement.shtml)
- **Travel and Recreation for Seniors** Amtrak senior discount, older drivers, travel tips...[www.usa.gov/Topics/Seniors/Travel.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Seniors/Travel.shtml)

## Special Needs Assistance



### Senior Citizens' Resources

<http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Seniors.shtml>

Find government resources for seniors on money, housing, health, consumer protection, and more.

- **Caregivers' Resources** Help providing care, benefits, long-distance caregiving, legal matters, caregiver support  
[www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Health/caregivers.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Health/caregivers.shtml)
- **Consumer Protection for Seniors** Consumer fraud, elder rights, advocates for nursing home residents...[www.usa.gov/Topics/Seniors/Consumer.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Seniors/Consumer.shtml)
- **Education, Jobs, and Volunteerism for Seniors** Adult education, AARP working options, SeniorCorps...[www.usa.gov/Topics/Seniors/Education.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Seniors/Education.shtml)
- **End-of-Life Issues** Advance directives, estate planning, hospice...[www.usa.gov/Topics/Seniors/EndofLife.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Seniors/EndofLife.shtml)
- **Federal and State Agencies for Seniors** Administration on Aging, Social Security Administration, Veterans' Health



### SPRING: Time to get back outside into the garden!

As spring gets closer, we want to go outside. Many fun filled and rewarding hours can be had by everyone if the appropriate tools are used. No matter what your problem, there are adapted tools out there to help make gardening enjoyable again.



Everyone will enjoy the new ergonomic Natural Radius Grip garden tools that reduce hand or back strain and fatigue. OXO garden tools have gel material in the tools' soft, non-slip handle. The gel flexes to provide cushioning when digging into tough and compacted soil. The blue tint of the gel helps the tools stand out in the garden.



Tools with long handles are available so gardening can be done by people who are sitting, or with back problems to enjoy gardening from a non-bending Position. Back Buddy Handle Accessory Fiskar Longneck grass shears Telescoping garden tools

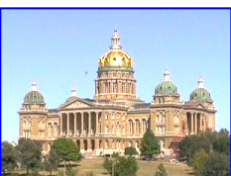
Or how about making it easier to turn the faucet off and on with a Foxtail Sliding Faucet Handle?

....and there are garden tools for persons who are one-handed. If you or someone you know would like to learn more about these products or any others that would make life a little better, call us at Iowa COMPASS. Our Product Search specialist is able to find items that would meet your needs. So if gardening is your pleasure, we can help. No matter what, we can help!

Submitted by Jane Gay, Iowa COMPASS  
PH: 800-779-2001

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**UERS: Used Equipment Referral Service: Do you know of adapted equipment not being used? Do you need equipment but there's just no way to afford items from a vendor or store? Then call Iowa COMPASS because UERS is a FREE services for buying and selling used adapted equipment. 1-800-779-2001 or log onto [www.iowacompass.org](http://www.iowacompass.org) and look for the UERS link.**



## 2011 Older Iowans Legislature Session

**Monday Sept. 26 & Tuesday Sept. 27th, 2011** in the beautiful historic House Chamber of the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines. This is YOUR

chance to be a Representative Delegate serving Senior Citizens of Iowa. (See article on Feb. OIL State meeting for details available to date.)

### OIL 2011 DUES CAN BE PAID NOW

Are you happy with the way the Elderly Programs in Iowa are being underfunded? If your answer is no, the Older Iowans Legislature is one of the non-profit organizations in the state that is fighting to at least keep funding at the present level. The Older Iowans Legislature is the only independent voice that sponsors legislation for Seniors before the General Assembly. Over the years OIL has been pretty successful helping to enact laws that protect and regulate Senior programs. We no longer have funding from the Department on Aging, so your membership dues are important as we make plans for our September Legislative Session to propose bills for next years General Assembly. Individual memberships are only \$25 per year, are tax deductible and will help OIL and our "Shining Star Agencies" to advocate for the Seniors of Iowa. Use the application blank to join or renew your membership today! We accept donations too!



Thanks for everything you do – Francis.

## Older Iowans Legislature

Membership Application or Renewal of Membership

(please print) \*

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City: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual: \$25 – Professional Agency - \$250

Sustaining Contributor – corporation - \$1,000

Silver Contributor –contribution/grant - \$2,500

Send membership contribution to:

Older Iowans Legislature

c/o Francis Thom, Treasurer

205 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St. - Centerville, IA 52544

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