

"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 PH: (515) 633-9534
News & Views – From the Older Iowans Legislature - AUGUST 2011 Issue # 19

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Older Iowans Legislature Annual Legislative 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.

2011 Older Iowans Legislative Session and 2011 OIL Annual Meeting

Members: COME BE A DELEGATE in September

SUBMIT YOUR BILLS SUGGESTIONS NOW



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

I hope everyone is looking forward to our annual legislative session. If you haven't yet committed and would like to, contact Ron Jome and he will make it so. If at the last minute you decide to go, just show up. Registration starts at 11 am Monday Sept. 26th outside



of the House Chambers at the State Capitol. Chances are there will be a vacancy you can fill. If not, you may observe as a non voting member.

Great news, Mike Otto of Paulina has agreed to edit the quarterly newsletter. As most of you know, this is Eve's last issue. Thanks Eve for your dedication to the frail and elderly and all you have done and continue to do for O.I.L.

This Legislative session of O.I.L. promises to be especially interesting. Remember we convene at 12 noon on Monday Sept. 26th. We are planning a Dutch treat dinner at the Holiday Inn Mercy Campus at 6 pm. Rooms are also set aside for us at the Holiday Inn. The special rate is \$79.95 + tax and they need to be reserved by Sept. 5th. Call 515-283-0151 to reserve your room. It would be great to have 100 delegates this year. My personal goal is 75. Let's make this an especially meaningful and productive session.

Ron Donald, OIL State Chair

OLDER IOWANS LEGISLATURE REPORT

Members and friends of the Older Iowans Legislature,

The Iowa General Assembly has **finally** adjourned and now is the time to prepare our bills for the 2011 Older Iowans Legislature that will convene on September 26-27 in the House Chamber of the Iowa State Capitol.

Issues of concern to the 2011 Older Iowans Legislature are listed below. Members and friends are encouraged to:

- Review the issues of concern listed below
- Make appropriate amendments to the proposed bills
- Introduce additional bills
- Send drafts of amendments and new bills to any member of the Board of Directors of the Older Iowans Legislature

Copies of the bills listed below are available upon request. (Contact Ron at the State Office)

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



ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE 2011 OLDER IOWANS LEGISLATURE

Supporting home and community-based services

- Parity reimbursement for home and community-based services
- Appropriations for a Senior Living Home and Community-Based Services Fund
- Providers of Medicaid Elderly Waiver case management services to be reimbursed for actual cost of service
- Appropriations to the area agencies on aging to meet the unmet needs in all programs serving the frail elders in Iowa

Eliminating abuse of frail elders and dependent adults

- Expansion of the Elder Abuse Initiative program to all Iowa counties
- Reorganize the department of human services to keep full time operations where the greatest needs and potential clients reside
- Reactivate the “substitute decision maker” program to provide assistance to dependent adults
- Dependent adult residents of institutional settings that face closure shall have respectful

treatment in moving their personal possessions and communicating with family members

- Create interdisciplinary examining panels to review all suspicious deaths of older or dependent adults
- Extend the list of mandatory reporters of suspected abuse of older and dependent adults to include representatives of the banking industry

Protecting the residents of long-term care and assisted living facilities

- Establish interference-free inspections of nursing homes and assisted living facilities
- Personal needs allowances for Medicaid Title XIX recipients to have annual increases
- Provide adequate financial counseling for spouse of nursing home resident
- Reinstate the Senior Living Coordinating Unit to establish a single agency for long term care in Iowa
- Appropriations to support programs for recruitment, retention, pay, status, and capabilities of professional caregivers in Iowa
- Strengthen the legislation regarding assisted living facilities for care and safety of the residents

Advocating for older adults

- Appropriations for programs to promote mental wellness among older Iowans
- Providing property tax relief for lower income seniors
- Standardized benefits for long term care insurance policies
- Protect rights of grandparents in cases of abuse or neglect of minor children
- Appropriations for the Older Iowans Legislature annual session in Des Moines

OIL State Board of Directors Meeting

. OIL State Board of Directors meets July 25th in Des Moines. All are welcome to attend and participate. Preparations for the 2011 OIL State Legislative Session will be featured on the agenda. Contact Chair Ron Donald for details – or just come to the meeting (Aging Resources office) - 5835 Grand Avenue – Ste. 106 – Des Moines, IA 50312

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?”

King

Marti Luther

Iowa Population by county: (estimates -2009)

(NOTE: 2010 figures were not available yet on the state DA web site)

County	Pop.	Age 60+	% 60+
Adair	7,350	2,074	28.2%
Adams	3,930	1,128	28.7%
Allamakee	14,407	3,510	24.4%
Appanoose	12,698	3,365	26.5%
Audubon	6,032	1,715	28.0%
Benton	26,734	5,373	20.1%
Black Hawk	129,276	24,883	19.2%
Boone	26,072	5,497	21.1%
Bremer	23,460	5,361	22.9%
Buchanan	20,910	4,310	20.6%
Buena Vista	9,671	2,714	19.2%
Butler	14,341	3,729	26.0%
Calhoun	9,671	2,714	28.1%
Carroll	20,674	5,020	24.3%
Cass	13,758	3,706	26.9%
Cedar	18,006	4,032	22.4%
Cherokee	11,409	3,248	28.5%
Chickasaw	12,017	2,872	23.9%
Clarke	9,086	2,041	22.5%
Clay	16,617	4,077	24.5%
Clayton	17,463	4,524	25.9%
Clinton	48,934	10,865	22.2%
Crawford	16,416	3,632	22.1%
Dallas	61,950	7,850	12.7%
Davis	8,562	1,874	21.9%
Decatur	8,231	1,867	22.7%
Delaware	17,205	3,764	21.9%
Des Moines	41,058	9,650	23.5%
Dickenson	16,623	4,793	28.8%
Dubuque	93,072	19,255	20.2%
Emmet	10,241	2,397	23.4%
Fayette	20,164	5,122	25.6%
Floyd	15,910	4,046	25.4%
Franklin	10,540	2,637	25.0%
Fremont	7,345	1,942	26.4%
Greene	9,251	2,589	28.0%
Grundy	12,177	3,038	24.9%
Guthrie	10,833	2,807	25.9%
Hamilton	15,238	3,664	24.0%
Hancock	11,046	2,681	24.3%
Hardin	17,144	4,510	26.3%
Harrison	15,328	3,543	23.1%
Henry	19,929	4,335	21.6%
Howard	9,410	2,403	25.5%
Humboldt	9,473	2,462	26.0%
Ida	6,762	1,841	27.2%
Iowa	15,811	3,594	22.7%
Jackson	19,728	4,865	24.7%

County	Pop.	Age 60+	% 60+
Jasper	36,257	8,009	22.1%
Jefferson	15,472	3,556	23.0%
Johnson	131,005	16,019	12.2%
Jones	20,364	4,538	22.3%
Keokuk	10,562	2,569	24.3%
Kossuth	15,154	4,117	26.2%
Lee	35,447	8,300	23.4%
Linn	209,226	36,929	17.7%
Louisa	11,245	2,250	20.0%
Lucas	9,179	2,223	24.2%
Lyon	11,172	2,485	22.2%
Madison	15,409	2,997	19.4%
Mahaska	22,000	4,506	20.5%
Marion	32,682	7,039	21.5%
Marshall	39,359	8,745	22.2%
Mills	15,002	2,866	19.1%
Mitchell	10,781	2,881	26.7%
Monona	8,882	2,666	30.0%
Monroe	7,549	1,911	25.3%
Montgomery	10,796	2,807	26.0%
Muscatine	42,934	7,768	18.1%
O'Brien	13,928	3,681	26.4%
Osceola	6,344	1,534	24.2%
Page	15,260	4,028	26.4%
Palo Alto	9,279	2,471	26.6%
Plymouth	24,210	5,063	20.9%
Pocahontas	7,346	2,072	28.2%
Polk	429,439	68,015	15.8%
Pottawattamie	90,224	17,595	19.5%
Poweshiek	18,423	4,399	23.9%
Ringgold	4,944	1,467	29.7%
Sac	10,059	2,883	28.7%
Scott	166,650	29,983	18.0%
Shelby	11,957	3,216	26.9%
Sioux	32,244	6,174	19.1%
Story	87,214	12,195	14.0%
Tama	17,377	4,148	23.9%
Taylor	6,344	1,706	26.9%
Union	12,241	3,084	25.2%
Van Buren	7,679	1,951	25.4%
Wapello	35,334	7,923	22.4%
Warren	45,275	8,491	18.8%
Washington	21,258	4,771	22.4%
Wayne	6,283	1,714	27.3%
Webster	38,346	8,338	21.7%
Winnebago	10,602	2,567	24.2%
Winneshiek	20,629	4,638	22.5%
Woodbury	102,831	18,142	17.6%
Worth	7,541	1,809	24.0%
Wright	12,716	3,389	26.7%
State of Iowa	3,007,856	601,929	20.0%

<http://www.aging.iowa.gov/Documents/Statistics/60+PopulationByCounty2009.pdf>

Iowa Aging Population: Census 2010

2010 median Age in years – 38.1

Age of Population	Number	Percent
Total – State of Iowa	3,046,355	100%
0-9 years	402,769	13.2%
10-19 years	417,741	13.7%
20-29 years	411,193	13.5%
30-39 years	361,888	11.9%
40-49 years	403,882	13.3%
50-59 years	427,637	14.0%
60-69 years	292,722	9.6%
70-79 years	183,678	6.0%
80 years & up	144,845	4.8%

Source: Iowa Data Center
<http://data.iowadatacenter.org/DemographicProfiles/2010DP1/stIowaDP12010.pdf>



Iowa Department on Aging

Director Donna Harvey and her staff are holding a series of 16 “Community Conversations” across the state of Iowa in July and August. (*The Johnson County event was July 11th at the Coralville Public Library.*) The goal is to provide Iowans with an opportunity to

understand the aging network and provide IDA the opportunity to understand your aging concerns. This is also an opportunity to discuss HF 45, the legislative mandate to reduce the number of Area Agencies on Aging.

- What does Aging look like to you?
- What are the Community’s concerns as we age?
- How can Iowa become a more Aging Friendly state?

Interested Iowans are invited to participate in the meetings (see www.agingiowa.gov for additional locations) or contact IDA directly by e-mail, by telephone or in writing.

E-Mail: aging.conversations@iowa.gov
Phone: (800) 532-3213
Mail: Iowa Department on Aging
 c/o Community Conversations
 510 E. 12th Street – Ste. 2
 Des Moines, IA. 50319

IDA is directed to submit the plan to the standing committees on human resources of the Iowa Senate and House of Representatives and the joint appropriations subcommittee on health and human services on or before December 15, 2011.

Demographics 2011:

from the Iowa Department on Aging
“COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS ON AGING”

Income and Poverty:

\$31,863 – median 2009 income for householders aged ... 65 and older. All Iowa householders median income (2008) - **\$48,044**.

Poverty rate for those age 65 and over – **7.3%** in 2009 compared with **11.8%** for all Iowans.

427,910 – number of Social Security beneficiaries in Iowa aged 65+ in 2009. This group collected total monthly benefits of **\$485,942,000**

88 counties in 2030 – the number of counties in Iowa with expected 20% of the population 65+. That is up from the 2000 figure, which included **30** counties.

73,942 – the number of Iowans age 65+ in the labor force in 2009.

102,028 – the estimated number of Iowans 65+ who are military veterans.

139,313 – the number of Iowans age 65+ with at least one type of disability

37.9% - the percent of Iowa veterans 1ge 65+ with a disability.

Source: www.aging.iowa.gov/Documents/HF45/CC_PP.pdf

Hawkeye Poll:

Majority of Americans supports Social Security reform

President Obama has recently alluded to changing Social Security benefits to balance the budget, and a national University of Iowa Hawkeye Poll released last week suggests most Americans support such a move.

Nearly nine out of 10 respondents supported at least one reform, and two-thirds supported at least two reforms.

Of the five possible reforms proposed, two received majority support: half supported increasing the retirement age by up to three years, and 55 percent supported raising the income ceiling on Social Security taxes. Nearly half (48 percent) supported increasing the payroll tax by 2 percent.

Some proposed reforms would be much less popular, according to the poll. Seventy-eight percent opposed a decrease in benefits, and 60 percent opposed decreasing the cost-of-living adjustment.

The Hawkeye Poll of 867 respondents was conducted by phone April 4-11, and the margin of error for the full sample is plus or minus 3.3 percent. Topline results are available at: http://news-releases.uiowa.edu/2011/april/042211Social_Security_Topline.pdf.

The poll revealed important differences across generations, and across parties. Nearly 60 percent of Democrats and half of Independents support increasing the payroll tax, but 68 percent of Republicans oppose such an increase. A majority of Democrats (66 percent) and Independents (60 percent) also support raising the income limit on Social Security taxes, but only 40 percent of Republicans would like to see that happen. In contrast, 64 percent of Republicans support increasing the retirement age while many Democrats (48 percent) and Independents (47 percent) oppose this option.

Younger Americans were more supportive of increasing payroll taxes. That option was supported by 53 percent of people ages 18 to 34 and 57 percent of those 35 to 54. Only 30 percent of respondents in the 55 to 69 age range and 33 percent of those older than 70 support such a move.

Older respondents were more supportive of raising the retirement age. Fifty-eight percent of people 70 or older and 50 percent of those ages 55 to 69 supported a three-year increase in the retirement age. But only 42 percent of 35- to 54-year-olds and 40 percent of 18- to 34-year-olds support that option.

Reprinted from Corridor Business Journal – April 25, 2011
 Reprinted from SE Iowa Corridor Business Journal, April 25, 2011

*Social Security Stats in Iowa

Social Security, established in 1935, was motivated because of the Great Depression. Social Security provides guaranteed retirement, disability and survivor benefits to eligible workers.

- Social Security Beneficiaries in Iowa: 574,315
- One in six Iowans receives Social Security
- 574,315 Iowans rec'd Social Security in 2009
- 388,139 retirees
- 68,425 people with disabilities
- 52,462 widows and widowers
- 37,683 children and
- 27,606 spouses
- 33.6% non-government workers aged 55-64 are without workplace other retirement benefits.
- S.S. puts \$616 into Iowa's economy @ month
- 40.5% of state's 65+ populations were kept out of poverty because of Social Security.
- S.S. makes up 50% or more of the family income for about 56.5% of Iowans age 65+
- S.S. makes up 90% of family income for more than 21.4% of Iowans 65+.

SSA: www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/factsheet/cong_stats/www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/factsheets/cong_stats/2010/ia.html
 Older Americans' Reliance on Social Security Income by State April 2010
www.aarp.org/work/retirement-planning/info-04-2010/fs1178-soccec-new.html



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 Services of Linn County**
- **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 back – Aging Services of Linn County.



Older Americans Month was held in May and Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging once

again celebrated the vitality and strength of older Iowans by hosting a 1 mile walk in our service area. In May of 2010, over 700 individuals joined us. This year on May 26, 2011, we had over 900 persons walking in 19 communities, including 140 school children who participated.

We were sponsored by more than fifty-one businesses, organizations, and individuals who contributed in a variety of ways. Participants were rewarded by donated water, bandanas, information about Hawkeye Valley and one shoulder sling bags to carry when they walk. Comments included: "Don't forget us when you walk again next year!" "We'll be here next year!" and "This has been such fun!"

We plan to host another event like this next year to encourage all persons, but particularly older Iowans to get out there and be active. We know that physical activity can help reduce the risk of or prevent falls, as well as elevate your mood and what better way than to join a friend for 20 minutes of friendship and fun! So grab a pair of walking shoes and get busy!

Submitted by Janet Buls, Hawkeye Valley AAA



**Older Iowans
Day at the Iowa
State Fair:** The

Iowa Family Caregiver Program, in harmony with the Iowa State Fair, will present senior singers making sweet music with "Older Iowa Idol" singers on Wednesday, August 17, 2011 at the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines. The Older Iowans Day and Older Iowa Idol are sponsored by the Iowa Family Caregiver Program. Each of Iowa's 13 Area Agencies on Aging offers assistance through the Iowa Family Caregiver Program putting caregivers in touch with essential services to help in their care-giving role. Gate admission on Older Iowans Day will be \$7 for persons age 60 and over.



To the readers of the Older Iowans Newsletter: As I wrote in the last edition of this newsletter, after 4 1/2 years I am moving on and will no longer be writing the quarterly

newsletter. Please welcome Mike Otto – your new Editor – Mike's e-mail and phone contact information is listed to the right here on the final page of this newsletter. Thanks for the support of all those who have so faithfully contributed all those great articles and news and keep them coming.

Best wishes, Eve Casserly, retiring editor

2011 OIL DUES MUST BE PAID BEFORE SEPTEMBER

The Older Iowans Legislature will be meeting on September 26th and 27th. All delegates must be paid members for 2011 by September 12th in order to participate in the process. Even if you will not be a delegate, we need your help. Have you renewed for 2011? Dues are payable at this time. \$25 per individual and \$250 per professional organization.



The Older Iowans Legislature is funded solely by your dues and funds from our Shining Star Agencies. We are a non-profit organization, so all dues are tax deductible. Donations are very welcome.

Please send your check payable to OIL to:

Francis Thom - OIL Treasurer
205 S 10th St
Centerville, IA 52544

Older Iowans Legislature

Membership Application or Renewal of Membership
(please print) *

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State & Zip code: _____

E-Mail: _____

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. 10th St. - Centerville, IA 52544

(tax deductible)

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