

# "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 - NOVEMBER 2011 Issue # 20

### “IN THIS ISSUE”

- The 2011 OIL House Chamber Scene
- Chair's Corner – Message from Ron Donald
- OIL Board plans Priority Bill campaign
- HF 45 AAA Changes – How it's shaping up
- Dues due? Contact Francis! See how! – page 6
- We've got a new Outlook editor
- OIL Board members and how to contact them

There's time for fun while doing the serious work of the Older Iowans Legislature

OIL 2011  
photos by  
Chris Kuchta,  
Siouxland  
Aging  
Services



#### 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



The 2011 Older Iowan Legislative session was very productive. The bills debated were all relevant and the involvement by the delegates was vibrant. This year we saw an increase in the number of professionals that made a special effort to witness for a relevant bill. This was a result of a concentrated effort by the State Board to involve other organizations in the writing and development of bills. The board feels that by involving organizations that have a vested interest in the advocacy for the frail and elderly we become more effective. This effort will continue.

At the annual meeting of O.I.L. steps were taken to broaden our prospective membership and participation. The eligible age was lowered to 55 and professional organizations will be allowed one voting member and at large delegates will be allowed.

Now we must work diligently to get our priorities put into law. Contact your Senator and Representatives and explain our priorities and convince them that keeping people out of institutions doesn't cost, it saves.

Thanks for caring

Ron Donald, OIL State Chair

# ***OIL Board to plan promotional campaign for Priority Bills at Nov. 7 meeting***

Plans to promote the three priority bills enacted by the 2011 Older Iowans Legislature will be discussed at length by the Board of Directors when they meet at 10:00 a.m. Monday, November 7, at Aging Resources of Central Iowa in Des Moines. Max Knauer and Midge Slater, OIL delegates from Central District, have agreed to attend the meeting and to join our efforts to promote the Top Three Priority Bills of 2011 to Senators and Representatives and to the Iowa General Public. Both Max and Midge have experience and skill at public advocacy and communication.

OIL members are welcome to attend board meetings. They may take part in discussions, but will not be able to cast votes on matters placed before the board.

If you have ideas on promoting the three priority bills, send them to any of the board members. Their e-mail addresses can be found on page six of this newsletter.

A detailed explanation of the three priority bills follows:

## **PRIORITY # 1(with 120 points): OIL Bill 11-01 A bill for an act relating to reimbursement under the medical assistance home and community based services waiver for the elderly.**

- **Enacted: ayes 38, nays 0**

This bill requires the reimbursement for providers of services under a medical assistance home and community based services waiver for the elderly to be recalculated annually on July 1. The annual inflation factor applied is to be determined based on the skilled nursing facility market basket services of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

It is believed that the costs of the annual recalculation will be offset by the savings realized by seniors utilizing home and community based services instead of going to nursing homes.

## **PRIORITY #2 (with 74 points): OIL Bill 11-29 A bill for an act related to funding for the Iowa Department on Aging and the Iowa Area Agencies on Aging in Iowa to provide critical support and advocacy for at risk and frail elders in Iowa.**

- **Enacted: ayes 32, nays 2**

The Iowa Department on Aging, in partnership with the Iowa Area Agencies on Aging, served 70,663 seniors in FY 10. The number of seniors served in the future is expected to grow as the older adult population in Iowa continues to grow faster than any other age group in Iowa.

This bill asks for adequate funding to provide case management, chore services, material aid, emergency response, evidence-based health promotion programs, transportation, home delivered meals, personal care, and adult day care to help older adults avoid institutionalization by remaining in their home.

This bill asks the legislature to appropriate \$19.928 million to restore funding to the Iowa department on Aging and the Iowa Area Agencies on aging to FY11 levels and to begin to address the unmet needs of seniors identified in the Iowa Department on Aging Unmet Needs Report compiled from data submitted by the Case Management Program for Frail Elders. It would also provide funding for two new services under development – Elder Abuse Intervention and Long Term Care Options Counseling. The appropriation would also support the development of a state wide system of Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC). Lastly, it would fund expenditures needed to reduce the number of AAAs in Iowa per HF 45.

The specific funding requested in this bill is:

- Iowa Department on Aging - \$3.3 million.
- Area Agencies on Aging - \$9.6 million.
- Unmet Service Needs - \$2.3 million.
- Statewide Aging and Disability Resource Center system - \$1.5 million.
- Elder Abuse Intervention - \$2.5 million.
- Long Term Care Options Counseling - \$500,000.
- Reduction of Area Agencies on Aging - \$250,000.

## **PRIORITY #3 (with 67 points): OIL Bill 11-17 A bill for an act for the General Assembly to make changes in the Iowa Administrative Code and the Iowa Code that will help insure quality care and to provide adequate resources to the Department of Inspections and Appeals.**

- **Enacted: ayes 36, nays 0**

This bill seeks to make changes in the Iowa Code and the Iowa Administrative Code to help ensure that the resident in the assisted living facilities of Iowa receive quality care and it designates the purposes for

which the appropriation of \$650,000 is to be utilized. These funds would allow the Iowa department of Inspection and Appeals to re-establish 10 long-term care inspectors, three inspectors for residential care facilities and one attorney staff position. It is believed that increasing the number of inspectors will help to insure quality care.

The funds have already been appropriated, but are set to be used for purposes other than originally specified.



Above, Delegates got to see their names lit up as they cast ballots during the OIL session.

Left: OIL President Ron Donald presided over this year's session. He was assisted by Chief Clerk Charlie Smithson and Speaker's Page Nick Huffman.



Left: Two delegates enjoy being among friends at the session. Above. Bob Welch and Betty Kelly listen to the debate.

**Did you know – lowans 65 and over...**

- 73,942 were in the labor force in 2009.
- Include 102,028 military veterans.
- 37.9 percent of veterans age 65 and over have a disability.

*Did you know -- Iowans 65 and over....*

- \* 93.7percent stayed put between 2008 and 2009 while only 83.1 percent for the state as a whole did so.
- \* People 65 and older were less likely to live in poverty with 7.3 percent in that category while 11.8 percent of all Iowans live in poverty.

# HF-45, SECTION 20- DEPARTMENT ON AGING: WHAT IS IT AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

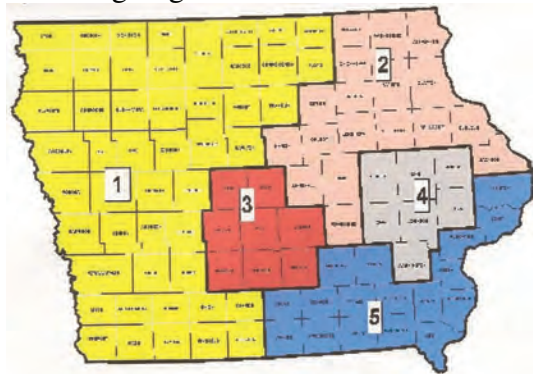
Submitted by Tresa Knoff, Executive Director,  
Northwest Aging Association

During the 2011 Session, the Legislature passed HF45 requiring the Department on Aging to reduce the number of AAA's across the state. The bill, subsequently signed by Governor Branstad, mandates that the Department submit a plan to the legislative committees by December 15, 2011. The plan will go into effect July 1, 2012.

Currently, there are 13 AAA's throughout Iowa. IDA held Community Conversations in each AAA planning and service area (PSA), throughout the state to receive input on HF-45 as well as to hear of other challenges aging Iowans are facing in their respective areas.

On August 16<sup>th</sup>, Director Donna Harvey from IDA, submitted a proposal to the Iowa Commission on Aging, recommending approval of a map showing the voluntary collaboration of 12 of 13 AAA's, merging into 5 new AAA's (reference maps below).

Each Executive Director of the current AAA's will be writing a Request for Proposal (RFP) depicting and designing a PLAN for services in the new areas.



**This is the Area Agency on Aging map that was approved by the Iowa Commission on Aging at their regular meeting August 16, 2011.**

At this time, each new AAA will maintain services currently being provided by the existing AAA's. This will also open up the possibility of expanding or adding new services. Although boundary lines will change, and AAA's may experience name changes when merging, our #1 priority continues to be that of serving aging Iowans to the best of our

**abilities in order that they maintain a quality of life at home as long as possible.**

This reorganization is expected to take 2-5 years for full implementation. There are several things for each AAA to consider, such as: staff health coverage, retirement benefits, salary ranges, computer communications, merging Board of Directors, Advisory Councils and Foundations, staff coverage and most importantly, maintaining programming and services for seniors.

As AAA's move forward through this reorganization process, we ask for your support and patience. If you have questions, please contact the current AAA in your region. We would be glad to answer any questions you have. Our focus is on YOU! That will always remain true!

## Want a Free Annual Credit Report? *The ONLY Official Website is* ***annualcreditreport.com***

The Fair Credit Reporting Act requires each of the nationwide consumer reporting companies – Equifax, Experian and TransUnion – to provide you with a free copy of your credit report, at your request, once every 12 months. The three companies have set up one central website, toll-free telephone number, and mailing address through which you can order your free credit report. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the nation's consumer protection agency, wants you to know that, if you want to order your free annual credit report online, there is only one authorized website: [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com).

Many other websites claim to offer "free" credit reports, "free" credit scores or "free" credit monitoring. But, be careful. These sites are not part of the official annual free credit report program. And in some cases, the "free" product comes with strings attached. For example, some sites sign you up for a supposedly "free" service that converts to one you have to pay for after a trial period ends. If you don't cancel during the trial period, you may be agreeing to let the company start charging fees to your credit card.

To order your free annual credit report:

- Visit [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com)
- Call toll-free 1-877-322-8228
- Mail your completed Annual Credit Report Request form to:

Annual Credit Report Request Service  
PO Box 105281  
Atlanta, GA 30348-5281.

## 2011 OIL Honors Jome, Casserly and Beauman

The 2011 Older Iowans Legislature honored three individuals this year. Ron Jome and Eve Casserly were co-recipients of the Maxine Henry Advocate of the Year Award, while Laura Armstrong, Aimee Mares and Sara Freiberg accepted the Professional of the Year award for their late mother, Cynthia Beauman.



**Betty Kelly**



**Ron Jome**



Above, After Mabel Mantel read her nomination statement of the Late Cynthia Beauman as OIL's Professional of the Year for 2011, OIL board member Mike Otto presented the certificate to daughters Laura Armstrong, Aimee Mares and Sara Freiberg. Otto said Beauman had one other attribute important to us. "She was our friend," he said referring to her strong support of OIL.

Left, Betty Kelly proudly accepts Eve Casserly's Maxine Henry Advocate of the Year Award certificate. Kelly nominated and accepted the award on behalf of Casserly who could not attend the session. Besides being a longtime supporter and advocate for OIL, Casserly edited the Outlook for the past 4 and one-half years.

Lower left, Ron Jome holds his Maxine Henry Advocate of the Year Award certificate. While Jome likes to be out of the limelight, he is the glue that holds OIL together. He has been an integral part of the organization since its founding. Jome makes sure OIL delegates are fully informed about matters important to the organization and seniors as a whole. Jome was nominated by OIL President Ron Donald.

### Types of Disability for Iowans 65 and Over In 2009.

* Hearing difficulty	62,791
* Vision Difficulty	29,234
* Cognitive Difficulty	29,130
* Ambulatory Difficulty	82,649
* Self-care Difficulty	25,998
* Independ. Living Diff.	50,189

## 2011, 2012 OIL DUES INFORMATION

Even though it's too late to become a member of the Older Iowans Legislature in time to attend this year's legislative session, it's not too late to begin thinking about the 2012 session. The OIL board is already planning on how to publicize the priority bills passed in this year's session and how to best advocate for their passage by the Iowa State Legislature. If you're already a 2011 paid-up member, that's great. If you know others interested in senior issues, ask them to join us. The more members we have, the more ideas we'll hear on how to best support issues important to seniors.



Have you renewed for 2011 or even 2012? Dues is \$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

## *New Editor Wants Your Input For Future Outlook Issues*



In the past Eve Casserly and her predecessors have put out a quality newsletter for OIL members. I will try to follow in their footsteps. Since this is your newsletter and I want to publish what's important to you and to OIL, I'd like you to send me articles, stories and information that you feel other OIL members would be interested in reading. You don't have to wait for the next issue. Send it to me whenever you're thinking about it and let me worry about being able to find it when I need it. As with any publication, space often dictates what and when something is published. Official notices of meetings and the action taken will take precedence. As a former newspaper editor, publisher and owner and now as editor of this publication, I know I'll offer my opinion from time to time, but I promise I'll try to keep it to a minimum. Thanks for your continued support.

Mike Otto

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

(tax deductible)

## OIL's State Board of Directors

Ron Donald – President

[rdonald@netins.net](mailto:rdonald@netins.net) (319) 551-1737

Mike Otto- Vice President

[otto@tcaexpress.net](mailto:otto@tcaexpress.net) , (712) 949-3786

Ron Jome, Secretary [ron.jome@agingresources.com](mailto:ron.jome@agingresources.com)-

[janron@netins.net](mailto:janron@netins.net)- (515)633-9534

Francis Thom, Treasurer

[billyt9@mchsi.com](mailto:billyt9@mchsi.com) - (641) 856-2505

Joy Eden – South District

[joymeden@hotmail.com](mailto:joymeden@hotmail.com) (641)-746-2749

Eileen Heiden, North Central Dist.

[heidenj@witcc.edu](mailto:heidenj@witcc.edu) - (712) 263-4110

Harvey Martens, Central District

[hmartens4@mchsi.com](mailto:hmartens4@mchsi.com) (515) 255-1061

Diane Naujokaitis, South West District

[gramrobbie@juno.com](mailto:gramrobbie@juno.com) , (712) 347-6655

Bob Welsh – SE District

[welshbob@aol.com](mailto:welshbob@aol.com) - (319) 354-4618

Neil Wubben, North District

[k7n4w63@osage.net](mailto:k7n4w63@osage.net), (641) 732-3836

The OIL Newsletter Team

Mike Otto – Editor

Lila Kramer – Circulation Manager

Ron Jome – Electronic Circulation

*We want to thank the Heritage Area Agency on Aging for their ongoing generous help printing this document four times yearly and thanks to Aging Resources of Central Iowa for serving as the OIL "Host Agency"*