



# MWDA Newsletter

November 2006

Maine Welfare Directors

## President's Message

Dear MWDA Membership,

The Executive Committee of MWDA held a strategic planning retreat on October 13<sup>th</sup>, and while we recognized that the organization needs more energy and focus, we are very encouraged about our new and enhanced goals and plan to meet those goals. We want to assure you that we are looking forward to stronger networking, training and organizational focus on the important issues.

We hired Dana Lee of Lee Facilitation Services to guide us through the important decision-making process and want to communicate the summary to you (the detailed report will appear on our web site very soon [www.mainewelfaredirectors.net](http://www.mainewelfaredirectors.net)). We strongly encourage you to become part of this effort.

Within this newsletter, you will find our draft schedule of events for the coming year. We would ask that you block out these dates and try to attend our training and meetings.

Training and certification are important to us, and we want to take all technological avenues and communication avenues to make that available to you. Included in this technological enhancement is the goal of making the website very meaningful and to implement a true "listserve" that we can all share and communicate with each other along with ITV and other computer technologies..

The MWDA is focusing on outreach to new and existing members to come into the group, to be a part of our positive, active committee structure. We are going to place great emphasis on positive support of our committee chairs and members, and staying away from criticism or negativism that may have contributed to an unwillingness to serve in these roles.

We are looking for volunteers to serve on our various committees and for those that cannot do that level of service, we are going to try and build regional welfare director groups, and are looking for regional coordinators to set up those local training & networking opportunities.

Let us conclude by saying that we feel a new sense of energy and optimism for the year ahead. Please be assured we welcome ideas and constructive criticism, committee and regional coordinator volunteers, or anything to advance our MWDA mission.

Sincerely Yours,

Darryl McKenney, President

### Special points of interest:

- Strategic Planning Retreat
- Detailed report to be on web site
- True Listserv
- Regional Welfare Director Groups
- Volunteers

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**Upcoming Events**

**MWDA  
Meeting/Training Calendar 2006-2007**

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location
November 9, 2006	Thursday	9:00am	Finance Committee/ Organizational Meeting	MMA
December 14, 2006	Thursday	9:00am	Membership Training/ Holiday party	Augusta City Hall
January 11, 2007	Thursday	10:00am	Executive Committee Meeting	MMA
February 8, 2007	Thursday	9:00am	Basic GA Workshop	Augusta City Hall
March 8, 2007	Thursday	10:00am	Executive Committee meeting	MMA
April			No Meeting/Training	
May 21 & 22, 2007	Monday- Tuesday	9:00am	MWDA Spring Seminar	TBD
June 14, 2007	Thursday	9:00am	Membership/Training	Bangor
October 2007	Wednesday Thursday		MMA Convention	Augusta

**Home Energy Loan Program**

State officials detailed a \$7 million Home Energy Loan Program on saying it can provide loans of up to \$15,000 at an interest rate as low as 1 percent to homeowners with incomes of up to 115 percent of the area median income.

As described by officials of the Maine State Housing Authority and the Baldacci administration, the program provides loans to be used to invest in energy improvements.

Loans with an interest rate of 1 percent are available to homeowners who make improvements suggested by a certified energy auditor. Those not using an energy auditor may still

obtain loans at 3 percent. Officials said the cost of an energy audit may be included in the loan.

HELP loans could be used to pay for energy conservation measures such as insulation and weather-stripping, heating system repair or replacement, installation of storm doors and storm windows and purchase of Energy Star rated appliances and windows, among others.

Officials said results would vary, but owners who make energy conservation improvements identified in an energy audit may realize reductions in energy consumption ranging from 15 percent to 20 percent a year.



- Education service; review of utility bills, home energy conservation tips, appliance inventory
- Replacement of 1995 and older inefficient refrigerators.
- Replacement of incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs in commonly used lights.
- Replacement of halogen lamps/torchieres with compact fluorescent lighting.
- Replacement of electrically heated waterbed mattresses with conventional innerspring mattresses.

## Appliance Replacement Program

Efficiency Maine's Low Income Appliance Replacement Program was designed to replace old and inefficient refrigerators in the homes of low-income consumers. Efficiency Maine was able to complement the services being offered by MSHA and the CAPs through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Maine State Housing Authority. Community Action Program agencies in all of Maine's 16 counties are replacing appliances in low-income customers' homes.

Efficiency Maine minimizes administrative costs by working with MSHA and the CAPs to supplement an existing federal program. The federal program administered by MSHA and delivered by the CAPs provides energy audits and weatherization services to qualified customers. The mechanism that allows Efficiency Maine to supplement these efforts is a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with MSHA under which CAP energy auditors arrange for the replacement of refrigerators when the estimated energy savings are 750 or more kWh per year.

The auditors also install energy efficient compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) in locations where they will provide the greatest energy savings.

In the past year, Maine's CAPs have delivered over 7701 refrigerators and more than 6,000 CFLs to low income customers, who will save an average of \$220 per year on their electricity bills. Altogether, the refrigerators and efficient lights should save about 1,400 MWh per year. The program is cost effective with a benefit to cost ratio of 1.16 to 1. Program environmental benefits are the avoidance of 976 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> and 6,840 and 2,373 pounds of SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> respectively. While the program is working well, Efficiency Maine and MSHA are exploring further improvements to the program that will simplify the customer qualification requirements, increase the number of replacements that can be delivered, and allow for the program to reach more than 1,000 households in the next year.

CAP energy auditors and weatherization specialists will estimate the

efficiency of the refrigerators in homes they are auditing. When the auditors find that a refrigerator replacement will save 750 or more kWh per year, Efficiency Maine funds the purchase of a new, more energy efficient model. While on site, the auditors may also install energy efficient compact fluorescent lamps in locations where they will provide the greatest savings.

This program is available to families or individuals that are determined income eligible under the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Incomes at or below 150% of federal poverty guidelines or incomes at or below 170% of federal poverty, if that household has an elderly member or a child under 24 months, maybe eligible for the Low Income Appliance Replacement Program.

For more information

Please contact Jo-Ann Choate at (207) 626-4600.

## Committee Members

### Legislative

Stacey Parra Co-Chair  
 Darryl McKenney Co-Chair  
 Vicky Edgerly  
 Mary Frances Bartlett  
 Sue Charron  
 Jack Roberts  
 Dot Meagher  
 Bitsy Holt  
 Shawn Yardley  
 Rene Daniels  
 Linda Fossa  
 Cathy L. McDermott  
 Mary Reindl  
 Gino Camardese  
 Judy Hardy-Goddard  
 Lori Nelson  
 Dolores Daoust

### Professional Development

Vicky Edgerly, Chair  
 Cathy L. McDermott  
 Cheryl Johnson  
 Diane Mende  
 Dolores Daoust  
 Dorothy Meagher  
 Lori M. Nelson  
 Mary Reindl  
 Rene Daniel  
 Jodi Hanson  
 Judy Hardy-Goddard

### Finance

Linda Fossa, Chair  
 Sue Charron  
 Mary Frances Bartlett

### Membership

Rene Daniels, Chair  
 Nancy Gove  
 Cheryl Johnson

## MaineCare Proof of Citizenship Requirement

Congress passed a new law that affects MaineCare applicants and current members. The law requires that people getting MaineCare prove that they are U.S. citizens. Before the new law, when you applied for MaineCare, you could simply state on the application that you were a citizen.

**Now most MaineCare applicants must show papers to prove both their citizenship and their identity. Most current members also have to show these records when they reapply.**

People will be given some time to collect their papers. No one should be denied MaineCare or lose MaineCare because they don't have the necessary papers.

The new law does not affect Medicare and SSI recipients. These recipients are exempt from the new requirement.

It also does not affect legal immigrants. Legal immigrants have already had to show papers that prove their citizenship or legal status.

If you have one of these records, it will count for both citizenship and identity:

- U.S. Passport
- Certificate of Naturalization
- Certificate of U.S. Citizenship

If you don't have one of these three, you will need two different records:

One of these:

- A birth certificate
- A Report or Certification of Birth Abroad
- U.S. Citizen I.D. card
- Adoption Papers
- Military Records, if it shows place of birth.

AND one of these that proves your identity:

- A current state driver's license or state ID card
- School identification (ID) card
- A federal, state or local government ID card
- A U.S. Military identification (ID) card.

If you were born in Maine, you should not need a copy of your birth certificate. The Department of Health and Human Services will collect birth certificates from the Maine Division of Vital Records for people born in Maine.

However, there are some people born in Maine who will not be in the state's vital records. If the Department tells you that you are not in the state's records, you will need to show a copy of your birth certificate. You can get a copy from the town where you were born.

Many groups are working with the Department to help make this new rule as simple as possible. We are trying to set up a system so that people can get help to get the documents they need.

### December Meeting/Training Agenda

Maine Welfare Directors' Association  
Membership Meeting/Training  
December 14, 2006 • 9:30am to 3:00pm  
Augusta City Hall

#### AGENDA

**9:30am MWDA Business Meeting** (Membership is encouraged to attend)

1. Call to Order/Introductions
2. Approval of Minutes: October 4, 2006
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Committee Reports:
  - Legislative Committee
  - Professional Development
  - Nominating/Membership
5. DHHS Update - Cindy Boyd
6. Other Business
7. Adjourn

**10:00am - 10:45:00am MaineCare (Certificates for training will be available)**

Guest Speaker: Ana Hicks, Policy Analyst, Maine Equal Justice. Ana will talk about the new citizenship verification requirement for MaineCare and the outreach that will be needed to help MaineCare applicants and recipients to meet this new requirement. The new requirement has not gone into effect in Maine, but we expect the Department to finalize rules in the next couple of months to implement this new federal requirement. It is going to be extremely burdensome of MaineCare recipients as well as the state.

**10:45am - 11:00am BreakK**

**11:00am - 12:00pm Winter Issues**

**12:00pm - 12:30pm Lunch Buffett**

Meat Lasagna, Baked Stuffed Chicken, Scallop Potatoes, Salad and a Christmas Cake

**12:30 Yankee Swap & Holiday Games**

To participate in the gift swap you must bring a wrapped, unmarked \$10.00 gift.

You must register for the training/luncheon by returning the form at the bottom of the page to MWDA, 60 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04330. You may also fax the form to Jennifer McKenna at 207-626-5947 or go online to: [www.memun.org](http://www.memun.org). Forms must be received no later than December 8, 2006. Those who register will be responsible for the cost of the luncheon whether they attend or not. COST WILL BE \$20.00 PER PERSON. If you have questions or wish to cancel contact Jennifer McKenna at 1-800-452-8786 ext. 293.

**Note: If there is inclement weather, a decision to postpone will be made by 5:00pm the day prior to the workshop. Please call 1-800-452-8786 ext. 296, 297, or 293 for information. (Augusta area: 623-8428)**

**MWDA Membership Meeting and Training – December 14, 2006**

Please register the following person(s) from \_\_\_\_\_ for the Membership Meeting/Training.  
(municipality)

FULL NAME : \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE : \_\_\_\_\_ FEE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 FULL NAME : \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE : \_\_\_\_\_ FEE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 BILLING ADDRESS : \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ TEL: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail all registration forms to:** Maine Welfare Directors' Association  
60 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04330  
**Register online at:** [www.memu.org](http://www.memu.org)  
**Fax all registration forms to:** 207-626-5947

IN ORDER TO ENSURE YOUR COMPLETE PARTICIPATION, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR INFORMING US OF ANY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS YOU MAY HAVE DUE TO A DISABILITY.

**Please make check payable to: MWDA**



# MWDA Newsletter

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WE'RE ON THE WEB  
[WWW.MAINEWELFAREDIRECTORS.ORG](http://WWW.MAINEWELFAREDIRECTORS.ORG)

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**MWDA  
Maine Municipal Association  
60 Community Drive  
Augusta, ME 04330**