

# WINDSOR COA NEWS

## June/July 2020

*Our mission is to serve older Windsor adults by providing opportunities and resources that advance the quality of life in a rural community.*

The Executive Office of Elder Affairs provides financial support for this COA publication.

### **WINDSOR COA: YEAR IN REVIEW**

*By Sandie Zink*

The Windsor Council on Aging had been put to rest, so to speak, in early 2019 with the retirement or resignation of most board members. Only Pete Menard remained, along with the need for a new, energized group of volunteers.

At the urging of our Town Clerk, Sue Jacobs joined Pete on the COA, and offered to be its chairperson. It didn't take long for news to spread that Sue and Pete were "on board" and other volunteers stepped forward. Thus, by August 2019, the new COA board was sworn in and began to lay a foundation for a fresh start.

Work began with the creation of a new mission statement (see it in the above banner). Since then, we've begun participation in the county-wide aging-in-place program, "Age Friendly Berkshires" with a survey\* regarding transportation needs, and hopefully followed by an exploration of housing for elders. We held a community luncheon to honor our sixty-six surviving veterans of which twenty-eight honorees attended.

We replaced the town hall refrigerator, created a bi-monthly newsletter (with the encouragement of the FOW board), and joined the Western Mass Food Bank's Brown Bag Program. We partially funded Windsor's COA Outreach Worker and the Public Health Nurse with COA grant funds and our town budget. We reviewed and updated our by-laws; the budget for the state's annual grant to COA's was developed, and members attended Elder Affairs training programs.

### ***....But you don't get ahead by looking back!***

What will our "new normal" year bring? Firstly, there the matter of our much anticipated May 2020 Senior Expo which, of course, was derailed by the pandemic. We had signed up nearly two dozen providers of a wide variety of senior resources who were as disappointed as we that the event couldn't go forward as scheduled. All said they were ready to participate when a future date is set.

Secondly, we will continue to strengthen our community collaborations, both in Windsor as well as the greater Berkshires including "Age Friendly Berkshires," the Windsor monthly Community Luncheons and activities, the RUOK (Are You OK) telephone calls, and more.

What would *YOU* suggest we work toward in the new fiscal year? We welcome your suggestions and your feedback. Please do not hesitate to speak to any one of us: Sue, Pete, Mame Whelihan, Sandie Zink, Margaret Birchfield, Diane Pennetti and Diane Saunders. And, stay safe until we can enjoy socializing once again.

*\*The survey is on the back of this page. We encourage you to complete this hard copy and return it to the COA, or you can do it online via Survey Monkey. We thank you in advance for your help.*

We're giving a special shout out to Jessica Buoymaster, our Outreach Worker who has been calling our town's older residents during the quarantine. Thank you!