



**UNITED  
SENIORS**

**OF**

**MARYLAND**

President's Report  
Ted Meyerson



United Seniors of Maryland Annual Meeting  
May 16, 2011

# Membership

## Membership:

81 organizational members

Over 250 individual members

## Goal – by 2012 Legislative Session:

90 to 100 organizational members

500 or more individual members

# Executive Committee

- Plays a major roll
  - Deserve thanks; helped formulate, clarify ideas, and implement
    - Rally – Dave Roseman
    - Treasurer – Dave Dickens
    - Secretary – Virginia Crespo
    - Legislation – Don Sillars
    - Membership – Maureen Cavaiola
    - Immediate Past President – Charlie Culbertson
  - Executive committee members changes as a result of elections
    - VP Rallies, VP Membership, and Secretary

# Legislation

- USM even more relevant than ever!
  - Played a major role in preserving funding for Department of Aging and Office of Health Care Quality
  - Played a significant role in the legislative process
    - MOLST
  - Next fiscal year will be even tougher
    - Fed help will be gone
    - Need to raise revenue and cut services –
      - Special Session
      - It will cost more to live in Maryland and there will be a shrinking of services
- USM input sought by legislators
- VP Legislation working on improving mechanism for monitoring, identifying legislation of interest to seniors, and encouraging participation

# USM is involved

- The State Oversight Committee for Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities
- Long Term Care Payment Advisory Committee
- Continuing Care Advisory Committee
- State Council on Quality Care at the End of Life
- Task Force on Information at End of Life
- Task Force on Communities for Life
- Continuing Care Committee
- Money Follows the Person Committee
- Verizon Consumer Advisory Board
- Ombudsman Stakeholders Group
- Home Health Care Advisory Committee
- Baby Boomer Initiative Council

# Financial

- Financials will be made part of the minutes
  - Broke even on Rally
  - Dues up with increased membership
  - Currently \$24,513.83

# Meetings

- Attendance up – average now close to 35 at each meeting is good, but 35 at each meeting is not so good when there are so many more members than that
- Good presenters – from all segments
  - Interesting information of importance to seniors
    - Legislators
    - Providers
    - Government representatives
    - Consumer groups
  - Would quarterly or semi-annual meetings bring more people?

# Rally

- Thanks to Dave Roseman and all who helped

## **What worked**

- Electronic tickets worked
- Town Hall Meeting format worked well
  - Moderator Len Lazarick
- Special presentation on budget issues by Warren G. Deschenaux, Director, Office of Policy Analysis
- Special preview presentation of *Consider the Conversation*

## **What didn't work**

- Had to move date
  - Perfect storm of legislation wrecked havoc with plans
- Caucuses had to be cancelled
- Task force reviewing and planning for next year

# Awards

- Champion for Seniors Annual Award Recipients
  - Mike Lachance
  - Sue Ward
  - Delegate Mary Ann Love
- President's Award Recipients
  - Dave Roseman
  - Paul Bessel

# Membership management

- New program already being used for email.
- About ready to implement other features
  - Cyclical billing
  - List maintenance
  - Self updating by members
  - Event registration

# United Seniors of Maryland Education Foundation, Inc.

- Board has meet and is making operational plans
  - Jack Knox
  - John Folkemer
  - Larry Blosser
  - Mardelle Channon
  - Maureen Cavaiola
  - Michael Splaine
  - Phyllis Madachy
  - Susie Jablinske
  - Victor Van De Moortel
  - Ted Meyerson

# Miscellaneous

- Newsletter
  - Looking for new editor
- Revised Web page
  - Looks great – thanks to Paul Bessel
- What's next?
  - Blog, Facebook, Twitter
  - Live interactive webinar meetings
  - You Tube posting of presentations

# Outreach

- Members, legislators, guests, and media on email lists
  - Over 900 direct recipients of emails – be a multiplier!
    - Newsletter
    - Legislative updates
    - General notices
    - Press releases
- Presentations
  - Need more venues
    - Add members
    - Generate more interest in advocacy
    - Spread the word about USM

# Current Climate

- The senior population is growing – world wide
- Most of the world is in a state of financial and/or political turmoil that could affect the well being of seniors
  - Property values still down
  - Retirement accounts
    - Stock values recovered for those who held on
  - Inflation a threat
  - The need to increase revenue could impact seniors
  - Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security threatened

# Going forward

- It will be a struggle to preserve and enhance the mental, physical, and financial well being of Maryland seniors
- USM is growing and modernizing to meet the challenge

If USM didn't exist, someone would have to invent it.

Continued growth might mean it has to be reinvented

USM is the largest umbrella organization advocating for Maryland seniors

Electronic communication makes it doable.

YOU make it possible.