

Make Your Voice Heard



*Learn how to make your voice heard
in Annapolis and protect programs
that serve older people*

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

10:00am - 1:30pm

Gateway Center

6751 Columbia Gateway Dr.

Columbia, MD 21046



Commission on Aging
Howard County

A PROGRAM SPONSORED BY
THE HOWARD COUNTY
COMMISSION ON AGING
WITH

The Maryland Commission on Aging and
The Howard County Office on Aging

What You Will Learn

- You will better understand the budget process.
- You will be able to identify effective advocacy techniques, including how to testify and how to and when to contact legislators.
- You will understand the power of grassroots advocacy.
- You will understand the process of how a bill becomes a law.



For more information contact:
Howard County
Commission on Aging
6751 Columbia Gateway Drive
Columbia, Maryland 21046
coa@howardcountymd.gov

410-313-6410



Make Your Voice Heard Registration Form



Name: _____ Phone: _____

Agency/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Make Check payable to Howard County Director of Finance

Mail with your check for \$8.00 to: Howard County Commission on Aging

c/o Howard County Office on Aging, Suite 200

6751 Columbia Gateway Drive

Columbia, MD 21046

About the Presenters

Michele Douglas: Michele is the most recent partner with the advocacy firm of Ciekot & Elliott. She has close to 20 years experience in the field of advocacy, serving as Legislative Coordinator with Planned Parenthood of Maryland; Director, Office of Policy and Public Information, AIDS Administration with DHMH; State Public Policy Director for the Alzheimer's Association, Maryland Chapters. Michele also worked as a private public affairs consultant.

Ann T. Ciekot: Ann has worked in the field of advocacy since 1989 holding several positions with the Association for the Homeless. She served as Director of Advocacy and Public Affairs with the Center for Poverty Solutions prior to becoming the Director of Advocacy for the National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence—Maryland Chapter. Ann is currently a partner with Ciekot & Elliott, LLC, formerly Benderman & Ciekot, Inc., an advocacy firm. She has been a partner with the firm since 2002.

Michael Lachance: Mike currently serves as the Maryland Department of Aging's Legislative Liaison, a position he has held for over 20 years. He also provides staff support to the State Commission on Aging, the Oversight Committee on Quality Care in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities, and the Council on Quality Care at the End of Life. Earlier positions at the Department included: Principle Planner; Legal Services Developer; and Planning Specialist. Mike is also the recipient of the United Seniors of Maryland *Champion for Seniors* award.

Make Your Voice Heard - Protect Senior Programs

Who Should Attend

Everyone interested in supporting and advocating for senior programs and services should attend this seminar in order to know how to Make Your Voice Heard in Annapolis.

In these very trying financial times, elected officials will make difficult decisions about how scarce resources will be allocated. Many of those decisions will be influenced by individuals and groups advocating for particular causes.

Most seniors realize that everyone shares the burden of reduced and shrinking resources. They want to be sure that important and vital programs that serve older persons will not be cut.

If you do not speak up, you cannot be heard. If you are not heard, no one will know how important senior programs and issues are.

Advocating is a process. At this seminar, you will learn about the process and how to go about making your voice heard, within the clamor of voices, each contesting for some cause or issue.

Use the attached registration form and sign up today!

Space is limited to the first 40 registrants.

Agenda

10:00 - 12:00

What's it all about
Michele Douglas
Ann T. Ciekot

- The Barriers
- The Mystique
- Building Relationships
- Legislative Advocacy
- From Bill to Law
- Oooohh, the Budget Process

12:00 - 12:30

Lunch

12:30 - 1:30

Contacting your elected officials
Michael Lachance

- How Do You Connect
- What Should You Expect
- Does Advocacy Work
- Know the Legislative and Budget Timelines

Program Registration and Cost

Register by October 2, 2009. Cost for this program is \$8.00 and includes lunch. Remember space is limited to the first 40 registrants.

