# **Senior Action Leader**

## A VOICE FOR SENIORS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Published by the Massachusetts Senior Action Council

www.MassSeniorAction.org

Spring 2022

Council

Massachusetts

SENIOR ACLION

## MA State House Reopens: MSAC Members take to the halls to push for economic justice.

After two long years, the Massachusetts State House is once again open to the public. Many things are different in the halls of power than in March 2020 but one is not: the presence of blue shirt-clad Mass Senior Action Council members.

Dedicated members are visiting legislators in-person weekly during the state budget cycle this spring. While the governor laid a foundation for Medicare Savings Program expansion in his budget, MSAC members are educating legislators about what is still needed: raising income eligibility to 225% of the poverty level and eliminating the asset limit. This important expansion would bring relief to seniors with monthly incomes of \$2548 (single) or \$3433 (couple).

At a February 25 statewide zoom meeting for MSAC members several homeowners explained how the low asset threshold blocks them from needed health care cost relief. Lynn member Joan Noble shared, "I could qualify with the Governor's MSP proposal but as a homeowner I have to plan for a rainy day. You have to have money when the roof



leaks, plumbing or electric issues arise. We are not hiding tens of thousands of dollars. We are just trying to keep up our homes and afford the healthcare we need."

While many legislators and committees continue to operate remotely, MSAC members are making their priorities known by making the rounds of the State House offices, meeting legislative staff, and doing persistent follow-up. Creative flyers and personal stories make for a memorable interaction with the staff who are there to receive our grassroots lobbying visits.

MSAC State Treasurer and committed activist at the state house, Rosa Bentley reminded the MSP Team to make sure to

Continued on page 6.

K BACK
In the News

President's Message3
Public Transit4
Boycott Turtle Swamp5
Healthcare Plan6
Staff Contact Info7
Do Over in Springfield8
Springfield Do Over10
Meet The Members11

#### **Contact Information**: Main Office/Eastern MA

108 Myrtle St. Suite 112 Quincy, MA 02171 617-284-1275- New Number www.MassSeniorAction.org

**Executive Director:** Carolyn Villers Cvillers@MassSeniorAction.org

#### Social Media:

Twitter: @SeniorActionMA Facebook: www.facebook.com/MassSeniorAction When: 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10:30 am

#### **CONTRIBUTORS:**

Edna Pruce - MSAC President Carolyn Villers - MSAC Executive Director Pam Edwards - MSAC Organizing Director Tracey Carpenter - MSAC Organizer Claudia Pérez - MSAC Organizer Eric Holmberg - MSAC Organizer Jake Tabor - MSAC Organizer Shayla Fonfield - MSAC Asst. Organizer

#### **STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Edna Pruce, President Kathy Paul, 1st Vice President Rosa Bentley, Treasurer John Ratliff, Secretary Karen Lynch, Membership Coordinator Elaine Correia, Bristol County Delegate Bernice Ezell, Gr. Springfield Delegate Paulette Spriggs-Durrett, Boston Delegate **Chapter Meeting Information: BOSTON CHAPTER** 

en: 2nd Thursday of the month at 11:30 pm Location: Charles St. AME Church 551 Warren Street, Dorchester

#### **CAMBRIDGE/ SOMERVILLE CHAPTER**

When: 3rd Friday of the month at 11:30 pm Location: Cambridge Senior Center 806 Mass Avenue, Cambridge

#### NORTH SHORE CHAPTER

Location: 10 Church Street, Lynn

#### METRO NORTH CHAPTER

When: 4th Wednesday of the month at 1:30 pm Location: Malden Senior Community Center 7 Washington Street, Malden

#### **GREATER SPRINGFIELD CHAPTER**

When: 4th Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm Location: Springfield Hobby Club 309 Chestnut Street, Springfield

#### **BRISTOL COUNTY CHAPTER**

When: 4th Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm Location: Greenwood Terrace, Westport Housing Authority 666 State Road, Westport NORTH SEACOAST AFFILIATE Meetings paused. Members will receive monthly updates.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

All

meetings

are virtual due

to COVID-19.

Contact an

organizer to

join.

#### Enclosed are membership dues for:

□\$10 1-year individual □\$15 1-year couple □\$50 individual lifetime □\$75 couple lifetime

NAME(s):				
ADDRESS:			APT #:	
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:		
PHONE:	EMAIL:	ate ad of p		
Yes, I would like all notices sent by email, instead of postal mail,				

Make checks payable to: MSAC Mail to: Mass Senior Action, 108 Myrtle Street, Suite 112, Quincy, MA 02171

## MESSAGE FROMTHE PRESIDENT by Edna Pruce

Happy Spring to my Social Justice Brothers and Sisters:

I come to you beaming with pride and amazement at the perseverance of the MSAC members. I continue to be in awe of the diverse and strategic activists I get to stand with in our fight for change.

I will begin with the members of the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) committee. I serve on this committee and witnessed weekly the commitment to lower the cost of healthcare for Massachusetts seniors. The committee met with many of the state house legislative leaders to explain our plan to expand MSP to provide relief to an additional 40,000 seniors.

In January we were thankful to hear the Governor, with support of Health and Human Services Secretary Sudders, agreed to expand the eligibility to 200% FPL from the current 165% FPL which we won two years ago. The announcement did not address the barrier of asset limits which will block many seniors who would otherwise qualify for the program.

With the knowledge of the need to eliminate the asset test along with the current inflation, MSAC is now asking our legislators to to expand the qualification to 225% FPL and limit or at the very least increase the meager asset limit to expand eligibility just as so many other states have done.

The committee is taking our message to decision makers on zoom, in emails, on the phone, and most recently right to the state house. We provide the data to show Massachusetts ranks 50th for senior income equality and we have a plan to change this embarrassing statistic. (read more on page 6)

We know the other contributor to the inequality statistics is the cost of housing. In Jamaica Plain, a lawsuit by a land barren is blocking 38 units of senior housing. MSAC is flyering the neighborhood to inform the residents about the lawsuit and the need for this housing. In March, a well attended rally garnered support from both the neighborhood and the media. At the same time, we worked with a non-profit developer to get approval from the Boston Planning Board for 50 units of senior housing along with a plan for home ownership in the Roxbury area. We will continue to expose the greed blocking the Jamaica Plain units and continue to support affordable housing.

I want to commend our brothers and sisters in Springfield laboring in the vineyards for public safety and racial justice. Members continue their struggle to hold their Mayor accountable and push for transparency in city government. I want to tell



them to hold strong and their fight is our fight. We stand with you.

Our Long Term Care (LTC) Committee is working with the national organization "Community Catalyst" to propose a policy to address the lack of options for seniors to age in their home. You can read on Page 9 about the LTC survey. I encourage you to fill out the survey and be part of the LTC solution.

On March 25, members from the 6 MSAC chapters came together to discuss public transportation. Issues bubble up from the membership and then go before the MSAC state board leadership as recommendations. The group chose three areas for the newly developed transit committee to focus on. You can read more on page 4.

Last but not least, I want to welcome all the new members who joined MSAC over the past few months. Our strength is with our numbers. Attend a meeting, join a committee, hold a sign at a rally! You are crucial in our mission to make our communities better.

**MISSION:** As a democratic, grassroots, senior-run organization, Massachusetts Senior Action is committed to empowering seniors and others to act collectively to promote the rights and well-being of all people, but particularly vulnerable seniors.

## We deserve a better public transit system

Conversations about public transit usually center on commuting workers; people that take it to and from work on a 9-5 schedule.

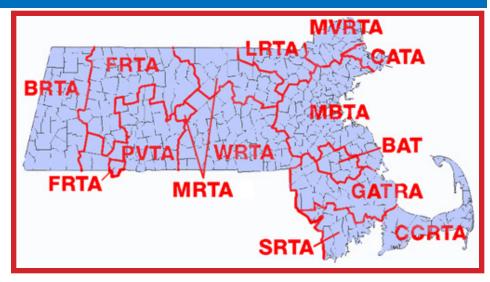
But seniors – especially low-income seniors – are just as reliant on trains and buses. After 65, access to quality public transit means being able to "age in place", independently and in your own house and community, even if a car isn't affordable or practical.

It means getting to appointments, dinner with friends, the supermarket, or an MSAC meeting on your own terms. It means getting across town quickly, even at 'lower traffic' hours. It means not being trapped in your home.

Decision makers don't always think of seniors when they think of the average transit rider, at least in the US. That's why it's so important that we make ourselves heard — and advocate for a system that lets us get to where we need to go without breaking our banks, or our backs.

To that end, MSAC is restarting our statewide transit campaign.

We've already made a big difference for senior riders in Boston by defending The Ride from fare hikes and service cuts, ensuring that our lessmobile brothers and sisters can still access a critical service. Over a multi-year campaign, we filled meeting rooms at public hearings, sent hundreds of members to "raise cane" at the state house, and even put our bodies on



the line, blocking roads and getting arrested to make ourselves seen.

For our next campaign, we don't just want to play defense- we want to fight for the transit system we deserve.

While residents of cities in other countries enjoy transit systems that can actually get them wherever they need to go in a timely, efficient way, here in the U.S. we've been left with crumbs. Why? Because due to the prevalence of the automobile, in this country public transit is viewed as "welfare" for those without a car. In other countries it's viewed as a public utility, as vital to the flow of modern life as water or electricity.

To figure out what campaign we wanted to run, MSAC held 5 listening sessions for our membership, to discuss the services our members use most frequently and the biggest issues they face. 52 people took part, including many of our Spanish and Chinese speaking members.

#### We learned 3 main things:

- For most of us, the bus is our main mode of transportation. Our main issues? Frequency and reliability- the bus just doesn't come often enough, and you just can't plan your day around it.
- Many of us also talked about accessibility concerns. Broken elevators, bus stops blocked by snow, crowding and a lack of accessible seats keep too many of us off our trains and buses.
- Finally, our friends living outside the Mbta area have gotten an even rawer deal. In too many places, public transit is so far from a viable option it might as well not exist at all.

The next step? Discussing the results and voting on a transit campaign that will address our concerns. You can be a part of our transit committee by emailing our organizer Jake at jtaber@masssenioraction.org.

### No Swamp Beer, Until Seniors Can Live Here! Brewery boycott brings support for senior housing.

The fight against greed continues in Jamaica Plain. On March 18, A coalition of local community groups led by Mass Senior Action Council members rallied to protest the continued legal opposition by Turtle Swamp Brewing and its landlord, Monty Gold, to a cityapproved plan for 38 units of affordable senior housing on Washington Street in Jamaica Plain.

Since June of 2021, MSAC and housing supporters have been flyering the community to inform the area of the greedy grab along with City Life Vida Urbana's online petition which has gathered over 1,3000 supporters asking the brewery and Gold to stop litigating against affordable housing. Now nearly one year later, advocates are asking the community to increase pressure on the brewery.

Covid concerns hindered voices against the landlord and the brewery during the winter months but now MSAC members are back in the street educating the neighborhood of the blocked housing and asking the community to stop patronizing the brewery until the lawsuit is dropped.

"We're concerned that these lawsuits, at bottom, aren't about issues of construction or parking, because there clear ways to mitigate potential impacts in these realms," said Boston City Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune who joined the March 18 demonstrators,



"If the plaintiffs really are concerned about potential risks to their business, they should know this: the real risk to their business is their own actions," said MSAC Boston resident Joanne Paul "They're just digging a hole for themselves, because standing in the way of housing for low-income elders is not a good look; many neighbors won't do business with them anymore," added Paul.



Protestors carried signs and chanted slogans, "No Turtle Beer, Until Seniors Can Live Here!" and "We are running out of time, Drop It Monty!"

MSAC 1st Vice President spoke to the crowd, "It was one year ago the non-profit developer JPNDC wrote a letter to Monty Gold and Turtle Swamp brewery owners addressing their concerns No matter what the community tried to do for Monty Gold and Turtle Swamp it was not enough.

Evidently, Monty Gold has the money to tie up our housing. Evidently, Monty Gold would rather pay lawyers to block housing than work with the community.

Today we are here to tell Monty Gold and Turtle Swamp - we are running out of time and we hope the community will stop buying Swamp Beer until the housing is able to move forward."

The lawsuit inspired a Boston zoning code amendment by District 6 City Councilor Matt O'Malley and District 8 City Councilor Kenzie Bok to remove parking minimums for affordable residential developments where at least 60% of the units are incomerestricted at 100% Area Median Income (AMI) or below. The Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) Board voted to approve the text amendment to the zoning code in November 2021.

Mass Senior Action is calling on the community to join the Turtle Swamp Boycott asking both Turtle Swamp and Monty Gold to drop the lawsuit. There is room for Gold's profits and homes for seniors.

#### MSP continued from pg. 1

make an impact so our issue will be remembered during the budget debate.

Taking Rosa's advice, members left KitKat candy bars in each legislators office asking the decision makers, "To Give Us A Break!" just as the candy's commercial states. along with flyers asking the legislators to adopt MSAC's plan to drop the asset test and raise the eligibility just as many other states have done.

Beacon Hill is a quieter place than it was pre-pandemic. Without crowds of visitors and tourists, senior voices can cut through the noise and prevail in the coming budget fight. But it won't happen without your participation– contact your local organizer if you are interested in attending a State House visit.

Even from afar, you can join the effort by calling and emailing your legislators about Medicare Savings Program expansion. Together, MSAC is back at the State House stronger than ever this spring!

#### STATE HOUSE IS OPEN, MSAC IS RAISING THE SENIOR VOICE TO LOWER HEALTH CARE COST!



The Governor's Budget Expanded Eligibility Income Limits for MSP but forgot a major obstacle.

Current Eligibility: \$1774 Single \$2390 couple Assets: \$15,460 Single \$23,200 couple

#### **Governor's 2022** \$2265. Single

3,052. Couple Asset Remains

#### What We Need

225%FPL \$2548. Single \$3433. Couple No Asset Test

#### **CURRENT EXPANSION VICTORY:**

The Massachusetts FY20 budget expands eligibility of Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs) from 135% FPL (~\$16K) to 165% FPL (~\$21K), the first step of our 3-year plan. **40,000 seniors will save \$200 to \$400 a month**!

#### **GOVERNORS 2022 PROPOSAL:**

The proposal will increase eligibility to 200%FPL: \$2265.00 single or \$3052.00 couple per month but keeps the very limited asset limits hindering seniors with small savings from qualifying.

#### WHAT WE NEED:

Medicare out of pocket expenses increased by 14.5%. MSP should be expanded to 225% FPL and eliminate the asset limit just as MA did for people under 65. Bringing in 303 million of Federal Dollars!

Email: eholmberg@MassSeniorAction.org or Call: 617-501-0648



### **MA Seniors Need A Break**



- 6 out of 10 MA seniors do not have the means to make ends meet.
- MA ranks 50th for senior income insecurity.

The high cost of Medicare co-pays, deductibles, and premiums contribute to this sad statistic.

SOLUTION: MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAM EXPANSION INCREASE ELIGIBILITY TO 225% FPL AND ELIMINATE THE ASSET TEST

## From Aggravation to Action! Building People Power, Free Workshops on Zoom.

For the past 40 years, MSAC has been building people power to combat injustice. The first step to empowerment is knowledge on how the system works and how to move that system for positive change.

Each month MSAC offers workshops for members and

**Free Workshops** 

Last Tuesday of each Month.

1:00 pm on Zoom Video.

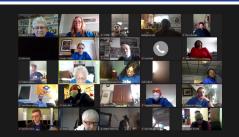
For more information contact a MSAC Staff person listed in the box below.

MSAC will help you connect to the Internet the community to gain tools to put aggravation into action.

In February, at the request of State Board member Rosa Bentley, MSAC's workshop explained how a grassroots organization differs from a direct service organization and why people participation is so important.

Boston member Roberto Lobos shared, "the comparison to someone giving you a service versus MSAC going to the root of the problem to fix it for everyone really helps me understand how we win."

In March members gained tools to be successful advocates for their issues. Through role playing, skits, and time proven methods members left with the knowledge to be the "squeaky wheel" to decision makers. North Shore member Phil



Alvarado echoed many other attendees, "the skills we learned at the workshop will not just help us win MSAC issues, we will be able to make change in every part of life. I wish I could get my entire building to attend. No one could just ignore us, we could not be stopped."

Workshops are offered by zoom video on the last Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm. The workshop's focus and content is determined by the MSAC members. If you are interested in gaining tools to build people power, contact one of the MSAC staff listed below.

## Call MSAC To Get Into The Action: New Office Phone Number: 617-284-1275

### Staff Contact Info

For Assistance or More Information Please Call Us

Carolyn Villers	(617) 435-1926
Pam Edwards	(781) 864-2596
Tracey Carpenter	(413) 328-4659
Claudia Pérez (Habla Español)	
Eric Holmberg	(617) 501-0648
Shayla Fonfield	(617)284-1234
Jake Tabor	

## Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Rally to Support Voting Rights and Eliminate the Filibuster

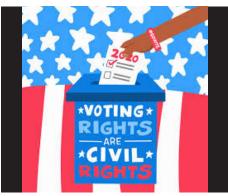
The Greater Springfield Chapter of Mass Senior Action Council sponsored along with the Western Mass Area Labor Federation, Massachusetts Jobs with Justice, Pioneer Valley Project, The Pioneer Valley Workers Center, The Black Nurses Association, The Springfield Chapter of Girl Friends, Inc., The Springfield Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and other labor and community organizations a rally outside Congressman Richard Neal's office to thank him for sponsoring the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act and to call on him to advocate his Senate colleagues to eliminate the filibuster immediately so two voting rights bills could be passed in the Senate. This event coincided with similar events that occurred around the country and our region, including the King family who rallied for voting rights in Washington DC and Arizona.

#### What do these bill's do?

- The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act would make illegal voting rules that discriminate on the basis of race, language, or ethnicity and empower voters to challenge discriminatory laws.
- The Freedom to Vote Act would solidify comprehensive voter protections and protect our elections from voter suppression, dark money, partisan sabotage and gerrymandering.

Congress failed to pass the Voting Rights legislation to protect the right to vote. Just this past month, the Senate also voted to uphold the filibuster-blocking the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act; bills to protect voting rights for all.

Over the last 20 years, states have put barriers in front of the ballot box by imposing strict voter ID laws, cutting voting times, restricting registration, and purging voter rolls. These efforts were furthered when the Supreme Court weakened the Voting Rights Act in 2013, have kept substantial number of eligible voters from the polls, affecting all Americans, although placing special burdens on communities of color, poor people and young and older voters. In the past year alone, over 440 new voting restrictions were introduced in 49 states and 34 new laws passed in 19 states to make it harder to vote.



The 2020 general election had the highest voter turnout in over a century. However, in the months following, the January 6th United States Capitol building attack to



Above: MSAC Springfield President Mattie Lacewell shows support for Voting Rights Reform.

overturn the 2020 Presidential election, states passed the highest number of voter suppression laws in the last ten years.

As identified in the MLK Day Rally press statement; "Last year, nineteen states passed at least 34 voter suppression laws restricting people's right to vote. Many more have been pre-filled for 2022 in states across the country. States have introduced and passed bills restricting early and mail-in voting, implementing restrictive voter ID laws and laws targeting voters of color and voters with disabilities... Some states have passed or introduced laws allowing partisan election officials to interfere in the election process and in some cases

voting continued on pg. 9

#### voting from pg. 8

reject results entirely."

For our democracy to exist it is imperative that All Americans have equal access to the right to vote. Delivering our collective message, "The choice is clear: Eliminate the filibuster, not representation of America's people."

Specifically, as member Emurriel Holloway stated at the rally, "We cannot stand of the side of our states and locales and watch the right to vote eroded. It is not a partisan issue. This is an issue of mission; this is an issue of morality. This is an issue of what kind of nation and society we want to live in."

Holloway continued, "we must rededicate ourselves to expanding and improving our democracy by protecting voting rights for all citizens. We must demand that every person has a right to vote. That they can vote without barriers, difficulty and fear."

"We, the people must continue our work to be "good troublemakers." She said, "we are seeing too many powerful forces working against voting rights across political, corporate and ideological forces." Today, we are committing to activate our community, not only to get out and vote in all electionslocal to national, and to be part of civil engagement.

Voting is a vehicle for us to utilize our agency it provides access to the rights as citizens. To do this, we must have fair access to the ballot.

Contact your Federal and State Legislators to tell them to fight for the right to vote.



# Take our survey.

As we all know by now, COVID-19 has and will continue to change everything. This pandemic has shifted the way we experience life in a variety of ways, but, no one knows this better than seniors. During this pandemic, seniors have experienced higher rates of death and infection than any other population of people. There's a national conversation happening between decision makers and the Long Term Care industry on how to improve this issue. But, as always, these conversations tend to exclude the voices of the people who matter the most: seniors.

Summer of 2021 started a collaboration between MSAC and Community Catalyst in which we held listening sessions with members from across the state to discuss their experiences and opinions regarding long-term care . All participants had either personal or secondhand experience with longterm services, whether being a care worker before retirement, a nursing home resident, a caretaker for a family member or spouse, or receiving support at home, there was a clear need to improve the system and

ensure seniors can access the support they need to age with dignity and respect.

MSAC and Community Catalyst are now preparing to launch a survey to get further input on how we can improve the long-term care system. Some issues addressed within the survey include:

- Training, compensation, and quality of caregivers
- Dignity and respect
- Independence
- Location and setting of care
- Resources and finances for services
- Isolation

The survey's responses will be used to help MSAC to determine priorities for our efforts to improve the system and to educate decision makers of the need to develop policies that are more supportive of seniors' needs. If you are a MSAC member look for it in the coming weeks and if you are not already a member contact MSAC to participate in the survey. 617-284-1275 or info@masssenioraction.org.

### Springfield Calls For "Do-Over" from Mayor Sarno

SPRINGFIELD, MA-Citing the need to mend broken ties between the community and Springfield's police force, dozens of advocates from Massachusetts Senior Action Council and other civil rights groups rallied in front of City Hall on March 7. The group demanded that Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno rescind his appointments to the new five-person Police Commission that he made without input from Springfield residents. They called for a more transparent appointment process that ensures a wide range of community voices will be represented on the board.

Mayor Sarno announced his appointments to the city's five-member board of Police Commission without consultation with the Springfield City Council, which originally voted to create the commission. A majority of the appointees were members of the Civilian Community Police Hearing Board that had previously worked with embattled Police Superintendent Cheryl C. Clapprood to review citizen complaints.

"We demand transparency for the police commission appointment process. Instead of addressing our concerns, Sarno has dismissed them. This kind of mentality is too damaging to be allowed to continue," said MSAC Greater Springfield Chapter Member Bernice Ezell. "Mayor Sarno's actions show us that he wants to conduct "business as usual" when it comes to policing, however the people of Springfield have made it clear: It's time for real change in our police force that roots out racism and overpolicing."

After the Mayor's ham-fisted attempt to defend his rubberstamp decision, MSAC member Emurriel Holloway responded:

"We are pushing for transparency because of our own personal interactions with the Springfield Police Department. We will not be silent about racism. We will not be silent about police brutality. We will not stop until our public servants serve all residents with equality and justice."

Despite findings by the U.S. Department of Justice noting that Springfield police ``escalate encounters with civilians too quickly" and "engage in a pattern or practice of excessive force," **Commissioner Clapprood** has said her department is in no way racist. Clapprood dismissed MSAC's concerns during a meeting in June 2021 and followed up with a dismissive letter to community members. "Commissioner Clapprood's response shows her lack of understanding and what is needed to build community trust in our public safety department, MSAC Gr. Springfield President Mattie Lacewell commented.

"I stand in solidarity with Mass Senior Action Council and express my



disappointment in the lack of a process and community involvement in the Mayor's selection of residents to serve on the Board of Police Commissioners," said Springfield City Council member Justin Hurst. "These commissioners have enormous responsibility, and they all need to know that we will be watching their every move and will hold them just as accountable as we did the former Police Commissioner."

"We are here to demand you rescind these bogus appointments, and work with the people of Springfield to create a review commission that reflects our community's population and its needs," said Greater Springfield member Emurriel Holloway. "Instead of working with the City Council, or consulting the people of Springfield, Mayor Sarno appointed many of the same old faces to this new body."

If the voters in Springfield do not like the decisions being made, the voters must change the decision makers.

For more information contact MSAC Organizer Tracey Carpenter: tcarpenter@ masssenioraction.org.

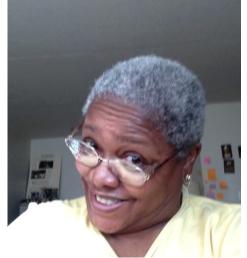
## Meet The Members: Valerie Bonds, Cam/Som. Chapter

Valerie Bonds is a former educator and a new but active member of MSAC's Cambridge-Somerville chapter. After learning about the group from Cambridge-Somerville chapter president John Ratliff, she quickly plugged in.

"The thing that interested me the most [about MSAC] was the strength in numbers, and this was prior to any knowledge of what MSAC had done," Valerie said. "The word that spoke to me was "active" – I mean, I've been on so many committees and councils that talk and that's all that they've done. When John mentioned that there were outcomes that were see-able, that's really what drew me" Soon after joining, Valerie linked up with other MSAC members in a local effort to beat back a proposed rule change that would have raised rents for some seniors and disabled residents that use housing vouchers in Cambridge. After a threemonth push, the seniors celebrated victory as the rule was scrapped.

Since then, she's not only been attending meetings, but also making calls to turn out other members. She says the continuity of these contacts is important to creating a community.

"It's not four times a year or every 2 months, it's making contact and keeping in touch with people on a weekly basis



makes this a routine," Valerie said. "[I want to work on] growing our membership... the other thing I think is important is the relationship of elderly and disabled people with public and private housing."

## Join In The Action No Computer, No Internet, NO Problem!

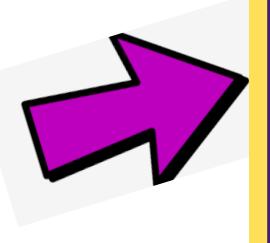




Mass Senior Action has gone digital and we want you to come along with us. Problems like high healthcare costs, sky high rents, and unaffordable groceries need to be addressed. Now more than ever, senior voices are needed. Join Mass Senior Action on video and take charge!

Senior Action Leader 108 Myrtle Street , Suite 112 Quincy , MA 02171 Nonprofit Org. US Postage Paid Boston, MA Permit No. 55361





# MSAC's new office # 617-284-1275

Same location. Just new phone number.

## We Do Not Take It, We Take Charge!

