



Missouri SHL Bulletin

June 2024

A Newsletter for those who promote conscientious legislative advocacy for Missouri's older adults.

Important Dates for Missouri Seniors

Annual events important for Silver Haired Legislature (SHL) delegates and others advocating for Missouri seniors include Senior Day at the Missouri State Fair, the Show Me Summit on Aging, and the SHL Annual Legislative session.

The 2024 dates to put on your calendar:

- ✓ Aug. 14 Senior Day at the Missouri State Fair, Sedalia
- ✓ Sept. 9-11 Show Me Summit on Aging & Health, Springfield
- ✓ Oct. 15 to 17 SHL Annual Legislative Session, Jefferson City



A tentative agenda for the Senior Day at the State Fair is found at <https://health.mo.gov/seniors/senior-day-fair.php>. The 2024 flyer and final agenda will be posted soon.

Tentative Agenda

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Vendor exhibits and booths open on Exhibition Arena Floor. *Register for the dance contest at the table near Center Stage from 9:30 a.m.-noon.

10:00 a.m. - 11:05 a.m. Free Bingo (Prizes awarded)

11:10 a.m. - 11:55 p.m. Line dancing lessons provided

12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. Pre-show: special guests, Ms. Missouri Senior and other entertainment

12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Dance Contest* (Must be 60+ to participate)

2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Awards presented

Special Guests Include: Lieutenant Governor, Mike Kehoe; Melanie Highland, Director, Division of Senior and Disability Services; Lana Johnson, President of Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging (ma4); and Darla Behlmann, Ms. Missouri Senior America 2024.

Area SHL Delegates Meet to Propose Bills by June 1

By Karma Metzgar, Young at Heart SHL Delegate, SHL Communications Committee

A process for strengthening proposed bills has been implemented with June 1 as the new deadline for proposed bills submission. Previously July 1 was the deadline.



The new date gives more time to strengthen bill proposals prior to the July 10 and 11 Proposed Bills Committee Meeting and SHL Board Meeting. The SHL delegates working on this new process are Tom Eysell, Barb Ittner and Lary Mohl. The new process is only to strengthen the proposed bills.

Kayla Curry, Community Relations, Office of Constituent and Emergency Services with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services in an April 25 email to SHL delegates, stated, “It is our hope that through this pilot, we will send strong bill proposals to the bills committee and then on to the annual session in the fall.” The committee working on the pilot provided an updated Proposed Bill Template, Checklist and Proposed Bills Strengthening Experiment Process document. The checklist is made up of some questions that will help the bills committee learn a little more about SHL area proposals.

All area SHL delegates statewide have been meeting to prepare their proposed bills using the materials to “strengthen” proposals.



(LEFT TO RIGHT) YOUNG AT HEART RESOURCES (YAH) SHL OFFICERS FOR 2024-2025 ARE KATHY ROACH, SECRETARY; JOHNNIE HERNDON, CHAIR; AND WILLIAM (BILL) HEDGE, VICE-CHAIR.

The Young at Heart Resources SHL delegates met on May 14 in Cameron, MO to identify proposed bills. A subcommittee met on May 20 to research and write the area’s proposed bills. At the delegates meeting, officers for the next year were re-elected. New SHL co-coordinators also were introduced as Freda Miller, current SHL coordinator will be retiring the end of June.



PHOTO TO THE RIGHT: (LEFT TO RIGHT) FREDA MILLER, YAH CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER AND SHL COORDINATOR WILL RETIRE THE END OF JUNE. NEW SHL CO-COORDINATORS ARE SHANNON NEAL, COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR; AND PENNY CRAWFORD, WHO ALSO IS THE NEW YAH CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER.

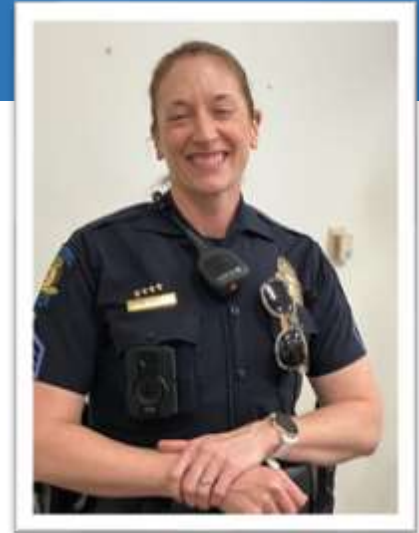
What is a *Scamboree*?

Submitted by Barb Mercadante, Aging Ahead

Aging Ahead, a senior center in St. Peters, MO, recently held a *Scamboree*, a special event designed to educate seniors about scams and scammers who target older adults.

Sgt Melissa Doss of the St. Peters Police Department was the featured speaker. She said they regularly receive calls about scams. The scammers are highly skilled telemarketers most likely located outside of the USA. Their locations make it difficult to track or prosecute them.

Sgt Doss said seniors are prime targets for scams. Why? Because seniors often are more vulnerable and trustful. Primarily because some seniors believe others are good human beings.



SGT MELISSA DOSS, ST. PETERS, MO POLICE DEPARTMENT.



Sgt Doss instructed the seniors attending the informational event to immediately hang-up when they identify a scammer. The telemarketers are skilled at keeping seniors on the phone. There are many types of scams, which primarily include phone calls, email, and text.

Those older adults in attendance seemed to be familiar with the first scam Sgt Doss described: the grandma/grandpa scam. Your grandchild supposedly calls, "I'm in an emergency situation and I need your immediate financial help". The 2nd scam she described was the Romance scam. It's a romance that develops over the phone and quite often the older adult can become the victim—losing many thousands of dollars.



Another scam discussed comes from scammers calling a senior and claiming he or she missed a payment of a bill. They keep the older adult on the phone until the senior starts questioning if they really missed that payment. Often older adults do get forgetful and are willing to provide their credit or debit card information.

Scammers regularly attempt to get your banking, credit or debit card information, your social security number or often they convince you to send them gift cards with money loaded on them.

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What is a Scamboree? (Continued from Page 3)



Numerous other types of scams were discussed during the Scamboree, such as e-mail scams, lottery and sweepstakes scams, even scammers saying you are being awarded an inheritance. Remember, when an offer sounds too good to be true--it is.

Also, there are scammers who claim to be from the IRS or the Social Security Departments. Those government agencies **never request private information or request payment over a phone**. They communicate through the United States Postal Service. Hang up immediately on anyone trying to represent those US agencies.

Often older adults do not report being victims of scams. They are embarrassed they've been robbed of their savings, or they don't want their family members or friends to know they should have known better than allowing the scammers to steal their money. If you feel you may have been a victim of scammers, theft, or fraud, report it to the MO Attorney General's Office in Jefferson City or your local police.

NEVER PROVIDE YOUR PRIVATE/CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION TO A STRANGER. SCAMMERS WILL ROB YOU OF EVERYTHING THEY CAN, EVEN MANY THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS. (This includes Facebook quizzes where it asks for personal information).



How to File a Complaint with the Missouri Attorney General

If you would like to file a complaint with the Missouri Attorney General regarding fraud or deception see contact information below.

1. Call **800-392-8222**.
2. **File on-line at:** [Consumer Complaint - Missouri Attorney General \(mo.gov\)](https://ago.mo.gov) or scan the QR code to the right.
3. **Download** the consumer complaint form and mail in.



PDF OF COMPLAINT
FORM TO PRINT AND
MAIL IN

Additional information can be found at <https://ago.mo.gov/division/consumer>



ONLINE
CONSUMER
COMPLAINT PAGE

June 15 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)



June 15th is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)! This campaign was launched by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization at the United Nations. The purpose of WEAAD is to provide an opportunity for communities around the world to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older persons by raising awareness of the cultural, social, economic and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect.

We need everyone to educate each other about the impact of

elder abuse and the pervasiveness of ageism (biases against older people) in our culture. We all deserve to lead happy lives, free from abuse as we age. Through outreach and statewide engagement, we can raise this social issue to a worldwide priority that must be addressed and prevented. Take action today! To see what Missouri is doing to commemorate this event visit <https://health.mo.gov/seniors/weaad.php>

THE COLOR PURPLE HAS LONG BEEN USED AS A SYMBOL TO BRING AWARENESS TO ELDER ABUSE.

- ✓ WEAR PURPLE DURING JUNE
- ✓ CHANGE YOUR FONT TO PURPLE IN EMAILS
- ✓ SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT WEAAD THROUGH EMAIL OR SOCIAL MEDIA

For other information on WEAAD and ways you can take action in your community visit [Take Action | USC Center for Elder Justice](#) or <https://eldermistreatment.usc.edu/weaad-home/take-action>

Submitted by Kayla Curry, Community Relations, Office of Constituent and Emergency Services Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Make a difference. Make the call.

Missouri's Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline responds to reports of abuse, bullying, neglect, and financial exploitation. If you suspect someone is being abused, bullied, neglected or exploited, call the hotline at 800-392-0210. The hotline operates 365 days per year from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. People who are deaf or hard of hearing may utilize Relay Missouri by calling 1-800-735-2466. You can report online at health.mo.gov/abuse.



Master Plan on Aging Town Halls Completed in Missouri

Submitted by Sheila Bassoppo-Moyo Ed.D., Healthcare Coordinator, St. Louis Area Agency on Aging, SHL Communications Committee



Since February, the Department of Health and Senior Services has conducted town halls across the state of Missouri to get feedback on the Master Plan on Aging aimed at countering age and disability discrimination, dismantling barriers to graceful aging, and fostering dignity among the state's aging population. Governor Parson signed **Executive Order 23-01** that created The Master Plan on Aging on January 19th 2023.

The town hall meetings consisted of a brief presentation on the Master Plan for Aging initiative, followed by facilitated discussions on seven main topics: daily life and employment, family caregivers, housing and aging in place, long-term services and supports, safety and security, transportation and mobility, and whole person health.



AGING WITH DIGNITY
Missouri's Master Plan on Aging

Some major findings across the state are the need for more independent, sustainable housing that older adults can age in as well as more forms of transportation. Caregiver services and more long-term services and support are also a priority.

At the St. Louis town hall held at the O'Fallon Park YMCA, approximately 159 attendees discussed many challenges, including the need for assistance with daily tasks, transitioning between jobs, access to computer/technology training, concerns about retirement, and future job opportunities. According to the DHSS summary, participants reported that they would like additional education on financial literacy to help them manage money considering the financial constraints experienced by many older adults. Lack of transportation for them impacted their ability to work and volunteer.

Participants shared that many older adults want to get out of their homes, but they could not leave due to transportation or costs, leading to isolation and loneliness.








To see the town hall comments from all the AAAs, click the following link:

<https://health.mo.gov/seniors/masterplanaging/> then choose a county or area. There also is a form to submit your thoughts on aging in Missouri.



The 7 Broad Goals for the MO Master Plan on Aging

There are 7 broad goals identified to address the overarching goal for the Missouri Master Plan on Aging. The overarching goal is: ***All Missourians, regardless of age or ability, will have access to person-centered programs and services necessary to help them age in their environment of choice in a safe and healthy manner.***

Subcommittee	Broad Goal for Subcommittee
 <p>Daily Life and Employment</p>	Missourians will live the lives they desire as they age with access to employment options, recreational activities, and opportunities to engage in civic and social opportunities.
 <p>Family Caregivers</p>	Family caregivers in Missouri will be adequately trained and have access to resources to provide effective care in support of the care recipient's choices and their own well-being.
 <p>Housing and Aging In Place</p>	Missourians will live where they choose in communities that respect their desire to age with dignity in environments that are safe, healthy, and allow for maximum independence.
 <p>Long-Term Services and Supports</p>	Missourians will have access to information to assist them in making an informed choice regarding a continuum of home and community based services; which help them stay safely in their homes for as long as they desire and will also have access to safe, healthy, and inviting options for necessary institutional care.
 <p>Safety and Security</p>	Missourians will have education and resources available to them to keep them safe; free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation; and to help them plan for their financial security in retirement.
 <p>Transportation and Mobility</p>	Missourians will have access to safe and reliable transportation and mobility options so they can get to the places they need or desire to go.
 <p>Whole Person Health</p>	Missourians will have access to the care and services needed to help them live a safe, healthy life with maximum independence as they age.

Source: <https://health.mo.gov/seniors/masterplanaging/>

The 42nd Bringing It Together HealthFest: Powered by Connection in St. Louis

Submitted by Sheila Bassoppo-Moyo Ed.D., Healthcare Coordinator, St. Louis Area Agency on Aging, SHL Communications Committee

The 42nd Bringing It Together HealthFest: Powered by Connection, a health and wellness fair, took place in St. Louis at The Muny in Forest Park on Friday, May 24th. This all-day event has become an important annual mainstay greatly anticipated by St. Louis seniors.



OLLIE STEWART,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
THE SOUTHSIDE WELLNESS
CENTER

A planning committee led by Ms. Ollie Stewart, the Executive Director of Southside Wellness, met over several months preparing for the fair. Ms. Ollie said, “Since the COVID-19 global pandemic, we relocated the event to a larger space to accommodate and protect everyone better from COVID. The pleasant weather last year added to the enthusiasm of all involved in the activities of the day. This year we hope to return to attracting more than 1,000 senior citizens, disabled adults and their caregivers throughout the day as we did in the years prior to COVID.”

The program consisted of an awards ceremony, exhibitors, music and dancing.

City of St. Louis and St. Louis County Joint SHL Meeting Aug. 15

Submitted by Sheila Bassoppo-Moyo Ed.D., Healthcare Coordinator, St. Louis Area Agency on Aging, SHL Communications Committee

State legislators of the Missouri General Assembly for the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County have been invited to attend the Silver Haired Legislative Joint Meeting to be hosted by the St. Louis Area Agency on Aging and Aging Ahead on Thursday, August 15th at the Five Star Senior Center in St. Louis.



The joint meeting will give representatives and senators the opportunity to describe what they are working on in Jefferson City and the upcoming bills that will benefit older Missourians. The meeting will also give SHL delegates a chance to speak to their legislators directly about issues affecting older adults in their locales.

Word Search

G O M K R Q P W E C T C U M E L X H Y U
 E Y P G L E J R R Q Z D E I I T O A J R
 C L Y A L O T O P S L X Z M R U E F P E
 Z B V L J Y N A N M E S W M B F N H C B
 G M U E H U J E N Q G N M Y I H C N C M
 V E Q O V Z G M P E I G A G I J B M H A
 T S F V F G O S T Z S C I T W S V Z W H
 F S A N R O L Q L R L I Z Z O V S W G C
 S A Q B C V C T V E A T T L W R B X D O
 F F X A W E A E R U T A L S I G E L L V
 E H J U D R B M T K I U S K U E U I O R
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 M C O N S T I T U T I O N O X D T O K Z
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 C B F E Y C O V W R E K A M W A L I M T
 J C Z O S E O C O L R Z E W R N P I O N

These 15 words found in the word search to the left relate to the people, places, and policies regarding the legislative process.

ASSEMBLY	LAW
BILL	LAWMAKER
CAPITOL	LEGISLATION
CHAMBER	LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE	MISSOURI
CONSTITUTION	SENATE
GENERAL	SENATOR
GOVERNMENT	

Source:

www.senate.mo.gov/newsroom/kidspage/puzzlesandgames.html



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For Public Advocacy E-Newsletter

To subscribe, go to <http://agingahead.org/missouri-shl>

All SHL delegates are encouraged to become subscribers and to recruit others to subscribe.

Use these links to contact your legislator(s) to advocate for legislation impacting Missouri Seniors.



<https://house.mo.gov>

<https://www.mo.gov>

<http://senate.mo.gov>

<http://www.govtrack.us>

From the links you can track bills, committee hearings, contact legislators, and more.



Also subscribe to the SHL Advocacy update at: <https://www.agingahead.org/missouri-shl/>

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