



May is Older Americans Month

# Aging Watch

The link to policy affecting older Iowans

Volume 12, Issue 3

May 25, 2012

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## DICTIONARY

### sine die

Definition  
si-ne di-e  
[ sì-ni dī-ee ]

## ADVERB

1.

**indefinitely ad-  
journed:** without a  
day being fixed for  
a further meeting  
"The committee  
was adjourned  
sine die."  
[ < Latin, "without a  
day" ]

## Sine Die

Iowa's 84<sup>th</sup> General Assembly came to a close on May 9, 2012.

The Conference Committee on [Senate File 2336](#) (Health and Human Services budget) held its first non-organizational meeting on May 9. At this meeting, it was announced that an agreement had been reached in regards to the budget. Following the meeting, the House and Senate approved the Conference Committee Report and passed the health and human services budget.

The adopted recommendations of the Conference Committee on Senate File 2336, which now await the Governor's signature, appear to be a merger between the House and Senate versions. A brief synopsis of the impact of Senate File 2336 as it relates to aging and disability issues, divided into two portions, follows. 1. Budget details related specifically to the Department on Aging; and 2. Budget details generally applicable to the aging and disability networks.

**Department on Aging:** Included below are budget details related specifically to the Iowa Department on Aging.

**Department Funding:** The Department on Aging was appropriated program funding in the amount of **\$10,342,086**. The chart on page 5 shows how this amount compares to proposed budgets from the executive and legislative branches.

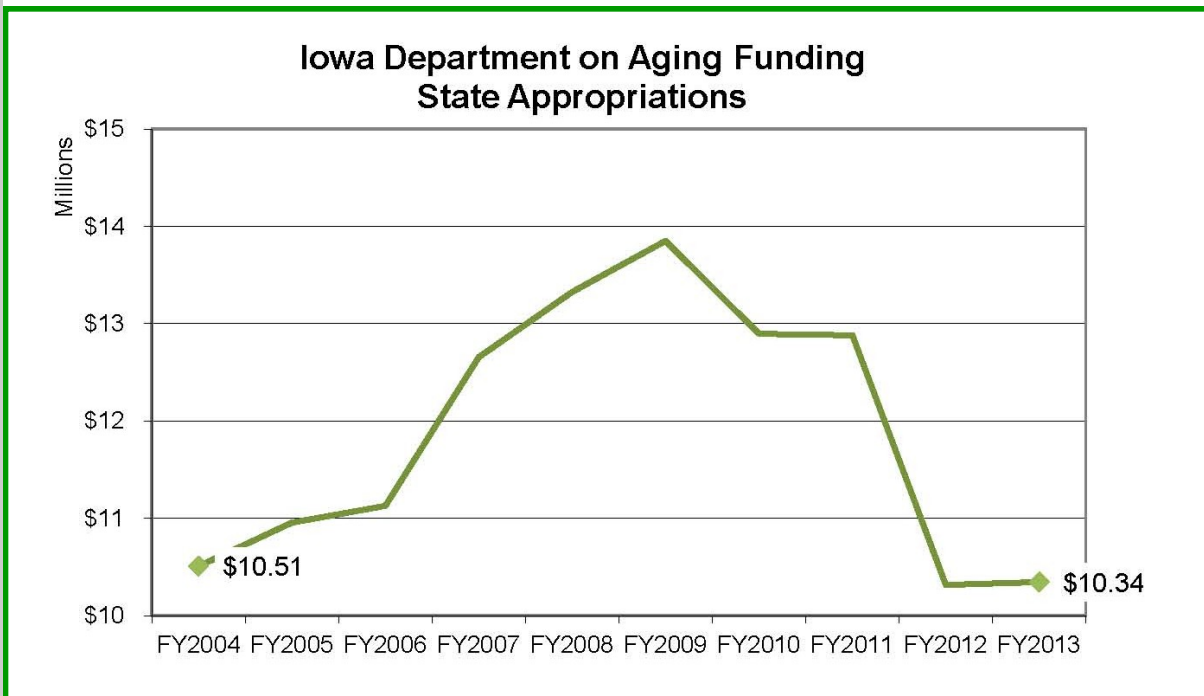
The appropriation includes a reduction of \$60,491. The reduction eliminates the budget for all state and federally funded office supplies and more. The actual office supply budget for the Department on Aging is \$37,483. The Department will do its best to manage resources under the circumstances.

The appropriation also includes an increase of \$100,000 for the addition of a new and full-time Long-Term Care Resident's Advocate and the creation of a Certified Volunteer Long-Term Residents Advocate Program.

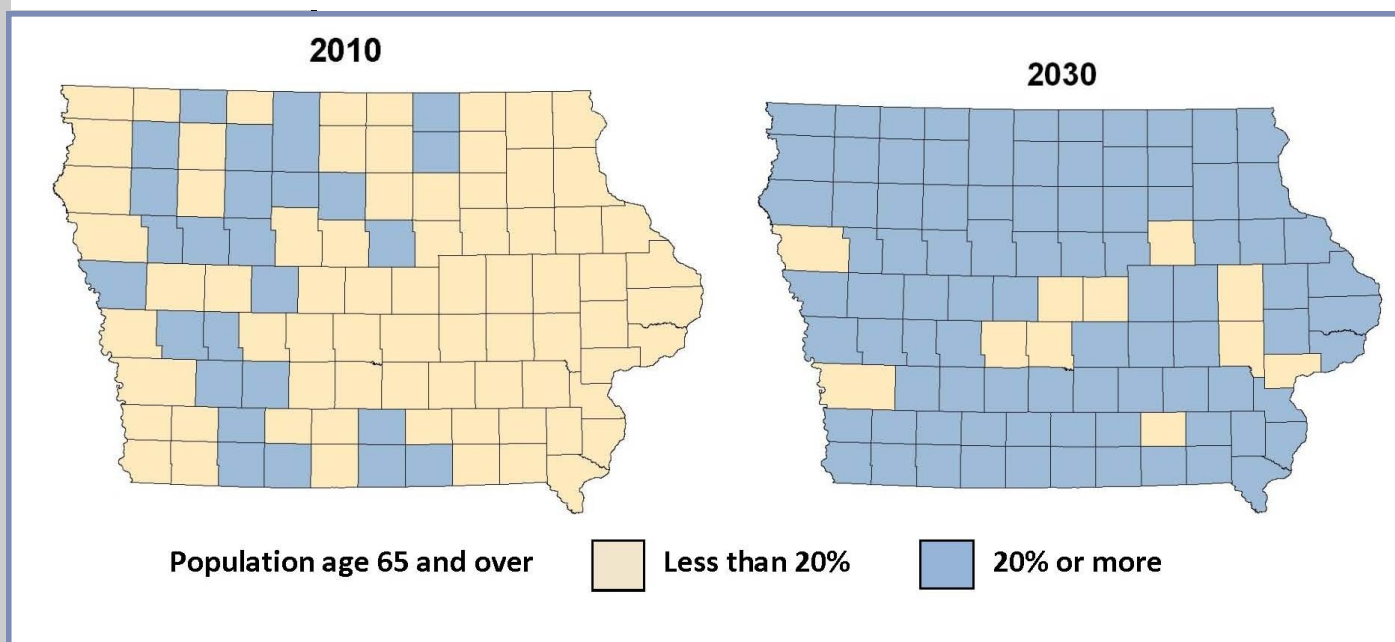
**Long-Term Care Resident's Advocate:** The Department was authorized to add one full-time employee as a designated Long-Term Care Resident's Advocate, also known as Long-Term Care Ombudsman. The legislation directs the LTC Resident's Advocate to administer the Certified Volunteer Long-Term Resident's Advocate Program.

*(continued on page 3)*

## 10-year History of State Appropriations to the Department on Aging:



## Percent of total population age 65+ in the years 2010 and (projected) 2030



*From 'Older Iowans: 2012' prepared by the State Data Center*

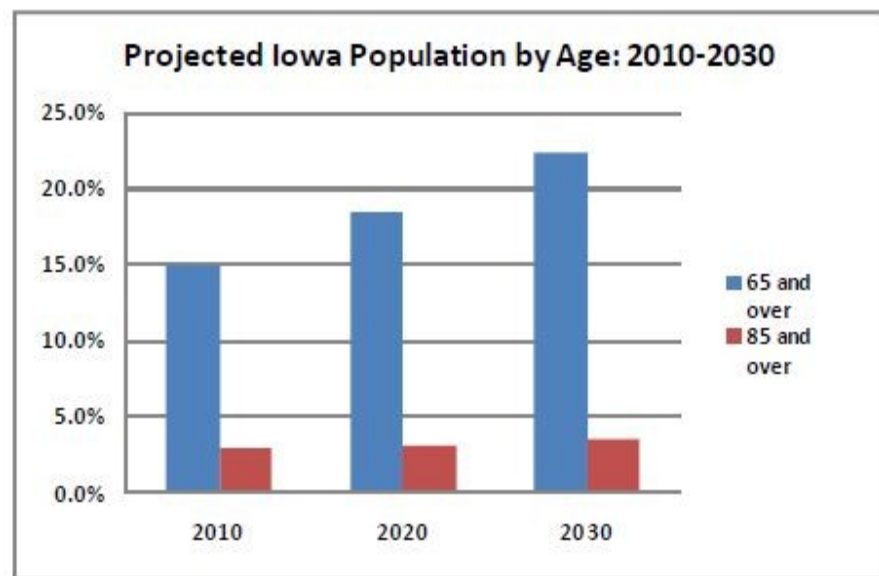
*(Summary: end of legislative session, continued)*

**Certified Volunteer Long-Term Resident's Advocate Program:** The Department was directed to establish a Certified Volunteer Long-Term Resident's Advocate Program. This program will recruit and train volunteers to serve as advocates for residents living in long-term care facilities such as nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

These volunteers will work in collaboration with the State and Local Ombudsmen to visit with residents and tenants on a regular basis.

**Office of Substitute Decision Maker:** The Department was directed to develop recommendations to reinstate and implement the Office of Substitute Decision Maker, including funding projections.

**Other Issues:** See page 4 for a summary of other mandates of SF 2336 outside of Department on Aging domain but relevant to the aging and disability networks.



**452,888** The estimated number of people age 65 and over in Iowa in 2010. This age group accounted for 14.9 percent of the total Population.

**663,186** The projected population age 65+ in Iowa in the year 2030. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, this age group will constitute 22.4 % of the state's total population at that time.

*From the State Data Center of Iowa 'Older Iowans 2012'*

We thank our citizen legislators for their work on behalf of older Iowans.

Projected Iowa Population is from 'Older Iowans: 2012', a document compiled by the State Data Center and the Iowa Department on Aging. See the document in its entirety on the Department website here:

[Older Iowans : 2012'](#)

*(Summary: end of legislative session, continued)*

**Other Issues:**

**Federally Qualified Health Centers:** The Department of Public Health was allocated \$75,000 to be distributed to Federally Qualified Health Centers for necessary infrastructure, statewide coordination, provider recruitment, service delivery, and provision of assistance to patients in determining an appropriate medical home.

**Direct Care Worker Advisory Council:** The Department of Public Health was directed to use an allocation of \$149,000 to continue the work of the Direct Care Worker Advisory Council in implementing the recommendations of the Council's final report.

**Food Insecurity:** The General Assembly allocated \$500,000 to be used for distribution to a nonprofit and tax-exempt association whose members include Iowa food banks to be used to purchase food for distribution to food-insecure Iowans.

**Balancing Incentives Payment Program (BIPP):** The General Assembly included a provision directing the Department of Human Services to convene stakeholders to provide an ongoing advisory process and reports to the legislature.

**Nursing Facilities:** The budget for nursing facilities was increased by nearly \$12 million, bringing the total allocation to \$237,226,901.00.

**Reimbursement Rates for Waiver Services Providers:** Reimbursement rates to home health agencies and home and community-based service providers were increased by 2 %.

In addition, the Department of Human Services was directed to review reimbursement rates for these waiver service providers and submit recommendations to the Legislature for a rebasing methodology to determine appropriate reimbursement rates.

Finally, Title XIX HCBS Elderly Waiver reimbursement cap was raised to \$1,300 per month.

It is important to note that this bill has not been signed by the Governor. SF 2336 is subject to line item vetoes by the Governor who has until June 8 to sign the bill into law.

Watch for the next edition of AgingWatch for additional information regarding the enactment of this legislation.

From Governor  
Brandstad's  
statement on  
close of the 2012  
legislative  
session:

"Modernize  
Services for the  
Aging:  
the Legislature  
adopted the  
Branstad/Reynolds  
administration's  
plan for a new  
regional service  
delivery model  
for our Area  
Agencies on Aging.  
This new model  
will significantly  
modernize and  
simplify the  
provision of  
services for  
Iowa's aging  
population."

### ***Aging Watch***

A comparison of the proposals from the Governor and both legislative branches to the final appropriation follows:

	<b>Governor's Recommendations State Fiscal Year 2013</b>	<b>House of Representatives Proposal</b>	<b>Senate Proposal</b>	<b>Conference Committee — Final Budget</b>
<b>Aging Program Funding</b>	\$10,302,577	\$10,302,577	\$10,302,577	\$10,302,577
<b>Office Supply Reductions</b>	\$0	< \$60,491 >	\$0	< \$60,491 >
<b>Addition of Long-Term Care Resident's Advocate</b>	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION</b>	\$10,302,577	\$10,242,086	\$10,402,577	<b>\$10,342,086</b>



**IowaAging.gov**  
**Elder Abuse Summit**  
Mark your calendar:  
**August 2, 2012**

Discussion regarding elder abuse laws in Iowa  
Watch our website for additional information  
[www.aging.iowa.gov](http://www.aging.iowa.gov)



## In Iowa, We Celebrate Aging!

### Fun Facts to Know and Tell

#### Demographic Trends:

According to the study “A Profile of Older Americans: 2011” by the U.S. Administration on Aging **every day of the year, an average of 7,500 – 8,000 Americans celebrate their 65th birthday.** Ten years ago that figure was 5,500 a day. That’s a rate of about 3 million people per year. According to the 2010 US Census, the population of the state of Iowa is 3.04 million people with approximately **444,294 people over the age of 65.** That is roughly **14.8 percent of the population** of the state. That makes Iowa seventh in the nation for populations 60 and older and third in the nation for populations 85 and older.

If the rate of growth for people turning 65 each day continues, the state of Iowa could see more than **663,186 people over 65 by the year 2030,** roughly **20.8 percent of the population** of the state. According to a study by Woods and Poole Economics, Inc. the number of Iowa counties in 2030 that will have at least 20 percent of the population that is over 65 will be 88 of 99. In 2000 that number was 30 of 99.

#### Housing:

Of the 444,294 Iowans 65 and over more than **93 percent still live in their own homes and communities** with only four percent residing in nursing facilities and two percent residing in assisted living facilities. The great housing crash of 2008 did not affect older Iowans like it did younger people. **Seventy-six percent of older homeowners own their homes free and clear.** The average home value of homes owned by someone 65 and older is \$96,442. This type of home ownership by older Iowans means a more stable property tax base for local communities as well as the state of Iowa.

According to the US Census Bureau and the Iowa Department of Management, Iowans, 65 years and older, **paid 17.3 percent of state property taxes** between 2006 and 2008 for an **estimated \$661 million** paid for those years.

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e-mail to:

[Join--agingwatch@lists.ia.gov](mailto:Join--agingwatch@lists.ia.gov)

*In Iowa, We Celebrate Aging! (continued)*

**Fiscal Impact on Local Economies:**

According to the US Social Security Administration of the 448,000 Iowans that are 65 and older, 96.1 percent receive social security benefits. The administration reports that in **FY2010 \$634 million was paid in social security benefits to eligible older Iowans**. They also report \$2.7 billion was received by the state in Medicaid payments. These dollars are spent across the state of Iowa stimulating local economies and businesses.

More than **500,000 Iowans rely on Medicare** to provide their healthcare needs. Almost all Iowans over the age of 65 are eligible for Medicare. **Iowa's reimbursement rates** for money spent in Iowa averages \$3,414 per beneficiary or **roughly \$1.7 billion**. Between 1991 and 2009 Medicare spending in Iowa grew by seven percent a year, however, The Iowa Medical Society reports that Medicare reimbursements to Iowa physician's ranks among the lowest in the country. It averages around **80th out of 89** payment localities. Despite that factor, nationwide the quality of **Iowa's health care is ranked 2nd overall**.

**Older workers:**

Contrary to stereotypes, older Iowans don't just sit at home. They continue to be a positive benefit for the workforce. The US Social Security Administration reports that **Iowa has 396,969 retired workers receiving a monthly benefit of more than a combined \$465,000,000**. Since they own their own homes, they can spend these dollars on items for their family or to improve their home.

An Iowa State University research study found that in overall Iowa employment, Lyon County reports the largest percentage of 65 and older workers at 7.9 percent with Johnson County reporting the lowest percentage of workers 65 and older at 2.3 percent.

In the "Older Workers in Iowa" profile of 2011 **42,353 Iowans 55 and older are employed in educational services jobs**. With **29.3 percent** of all educational services jobs being held by Iowans 55 and older, that is **the largest percentage of any employment sector in the state**. That percentage is up from 28.5 percent in 2008 and 24.2 percent in 2006. 39,344 jobs are held by workers age 55 and over in Iowa's largest industry, which remains manufacturing. Employment in this age group in this industry has grown by 20.2 percent since 2004. Pay has continued to increase in these fields as well with educational services paying an average monthly rate of \$3,476 (\$41,700 annually) and manufacturing paying an average monthly rate of \$4,420 (\$53,000 annually). This is up from \$2,968 and \$4,067 in 2006.

The aging  
aren't only  
the old.  
The aging  
are all of us.

*~ Alexandra Robbins*



*In Iowa, We Celebrate Aging! (continued)*

**Grandparents:**

Most Iowans aged 65 and older are grandparents. According to several national studies, those grandparents spend significant resources on their grandchildren. **Grandparents buy one of every four toys sold in America each year.** The **average grandparent spends an average of \$489 per year** on their grandchildren, about \$30 billion annually on the national level and about **\$217 million by older Iowans.** The dollars are being spent on things like quality clothing for the grandchildren, lots of books and, of course all those toys.



A new trend that continues to grow is older Americans being the sole care providers for their grandchildren. In Iowa **the number of children (those under 18) being cared for by a grandparent is 13,435.** In some cases this means that the child lives solely with the grandparent(s) and receives 24 hour care from that/those grandparent(s). In most other cases, the child is receiving “daycare like” care from a grandparent during the day while the child’s parent(s) are at work.

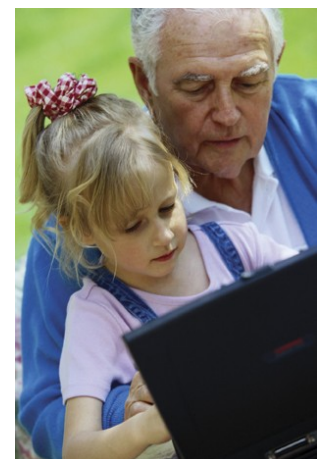
**Voting:**

Older Iowans are taking an active role in deciding the leadership of their communities, the state and the nation. Eighty-three percent of Iowans age 65 and older registered to vote in the 2008 presidential election, the highest rate of any age group. **Seventy-six percent of people in this age group reported actually casting a ballot.** Older Iowans are active in the process and are known to truly size-up a candidate before they make up their minds to vote. That makes this a sizable voting block that no politician should ever want to discount.

**Dispelling the stereotype:**

**Seniors Do Embrace and Use Technology:**

Older Iowans are very active in the real world but they are also active in the cyber-world. The Pew Foundation Internet and American Life Project found that older adults are the most active users of the Internet: **51 percent of 50-64 years olds have Internet access; 15 percent of those 65-plus, and 69 percent of all go online every day .**



The  
longer  
I live  
the more  
beautiful life  
becomes.

*-Franklin Lloyd Wright*



*In Iowa, We Celebrate Aging! (continued)*

Of those online older Americans, 93 percent use e-mail, plus search for information on health, hobbies, news, investment and stock market. An Arizona State research study confirmed that people 55 and older check out a store's inventory on the Internet before going to shop at the store showing that tech savvy adults aren't just sending e-mail anymore! They are exploring who is out there and talking to them, making friends and even dating later in life. Websites like "Senior-Friend-Finder.com" have exploded and in some cases outnumber younger clients using websites of the same kind.

**More Iowans Are Becoming Centenarians:**

With healthier nutrition options and staying connected, older Iowans are, in fact, living longer. The number of **centenarians, those who are 100 or more**, in Iowa continues to rise with **more than 846** currently residing in the state. There are roughly 53,000 centenarians across the United States. According to the Older Americans 2010 study by the Federal Forum on Aging it has been shown that **Americans who are born today will outlive those born in 1900 by about 30 years**. Active and healthy lifestyles are allowing for this change.

**So what does it all mean?**

In Iowa we celebrate aging. From the financial impact that older Iowans make on the state to the fact that more Iowans are living longer, older Iowans are respected, honored and cherished in our state. Working longer, staying active and making good, healthy choices show that older Iowans are vibrant and breaking the stereotypes when it comes to aging. As older Americans month draws to a close we hope this article has given you a new perspective on older Iowans. The Iowa Department on Aging firmly believes and will continue to promote the fact that **older Iowans are a gain, not a drain** to the state of Iowa.

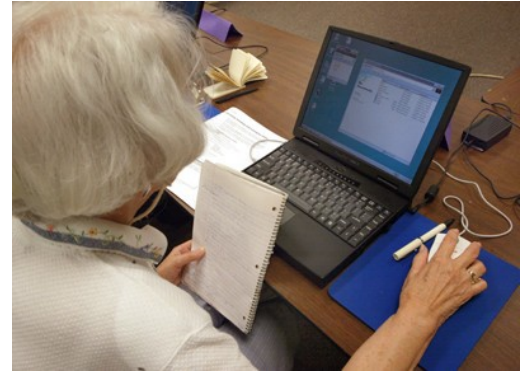


It's a mistake to regard age as a downhill grade toward dissolution. The reverse is true. As one grows older, one climbs with surprising strides.

- George Sand

## Boomers in the Workforce

The American workforce is aging with the baby boomer cohort beginning to turn 65 in 2011. However, the trend is not to fully retire. Retirees are moving to jobs and volunteer situations that meet the social consciousness needs of this generation; this generation protested against the Viet Nam War and for women's rights. Encore.org identifies the top five encore careers to include health care, green jobs, education, government and nonprofit environments.



**\$3,757.**

The average  
monthly income  
for all workers in  
Iowa age 55-64

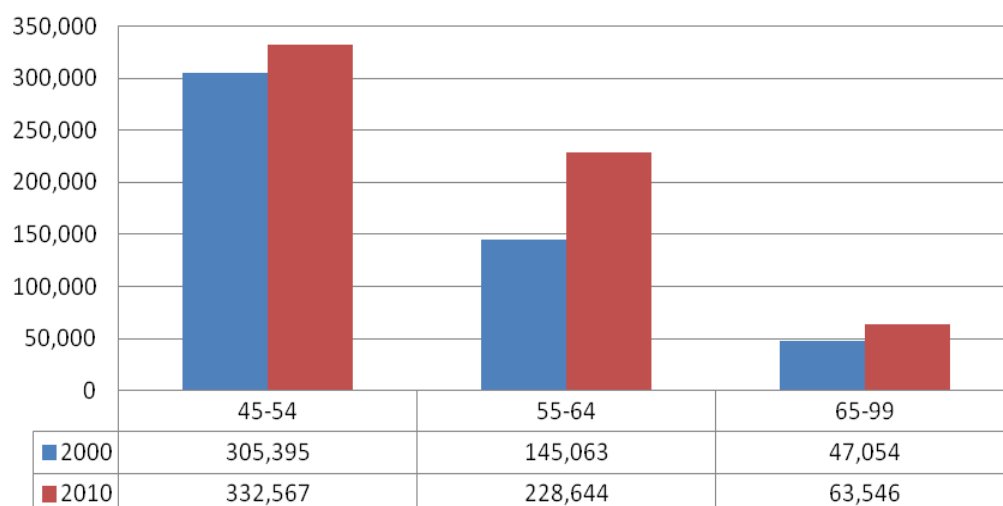
*From Iowa  
Workforce  
Development and  
U.S. Census Bureau  
Partnership  
February 2011*

Retirement may not be a choice for some. A MetLife Report on Early Boomers (2008) identified that the leading edge female baby boomer was more likely to work beyond age 55 because her typical lifetime earnings was two-thirds that of her male counterpart. In addition, 40% of women ages 65-74 will become a single household with responsibility for all expenses in the home. Despite being better educated than their parents and being a high earner, baby boomers are poor savers. A McKinsey Global Institute report (2008) stated that two-thirds of baby boomers cannot support their lifestyles in retirement despite high home ownership.

The news continues to be bleak for unemployed people age 55 and older. The AARP Public Policy Institute Report - The Employment Situation, March 2012: Unemployment Rises for Older Workers states that the unemployment rate for people 55+ rose from 5.9% to 6.2% from February 2012 to March 2012. The average duration of unemployment rose from 54.1 weeks to 55.7 weeks between February and March 2012. Close to 1.3 million (4.9%) older workers were in part-time jobs (and multiple part-time jobs). The work force participation rate of people age 65+ was 10.8% in 1985; 17.9% in 2011 and rose to 18.6% in March of 2012. Five percent of the total workforce in March 2012 was age 65.

The Urban Institute published a paper entitled 'Will Employers Want Aging Boomers?' (2008) and their research demonstrated mixed opinions. The older worker is perceived as experienced, reliable, productive, and maintains a high work ethic. However, the report further outlines employer concerns and stereotypes regarding the cost of the older worker as well as their creativity, flexibility, physical capability and willingness to learn new skills.

## Iowa's Average Annual Statewide Employment by Age



Iowa workers over the age of 54 made up 13.5 percent of the total workforce in 2000 but increased to 20.6 (+110,073) in 2010, with workers between the ages of 55 and 64 increasing by 57.6 percent (+83,581).

Source: Census Bureau

## Employment Story is a Win—Win!

Red O'Toole entered the Senior Internship Program, an employment program for adults over the age of 55, via Generations Area Agency on Aging. In June 2010 she began training as a meal site aide at the DeWitt meal site for seniors, GenAge Café. Attendance at the site had been waning. Nearly a year later, Red accepted the managerial position. A change in Café location coupled with Red's efficiencies and enthusiastic leadership have yielded steady growth, bucking nationwide trends of shrinking participation.

**Win #1:** Red is gainfully employed doing something she loves.

**Win #2:** More seniors in the DeWitt area are receiving nourishment and socialization through a well-run program.

When Red was honored in November 2011 at the Generations Annual Award Ceremony, she responded with a heartfelt note: "This has been the best year of my life. I've found my calling."



## Commission On Aging

Sanctioned by the Iowa Code, the Iowa Commission on Aging is charged with serving as a visible advocate for older Iowans by establishing policies for reviewing and commenting upon all state plans, budgets, and policies which affect older Iowans. The Commission meets at least four times each year.

### **Farewell to Commissioners Linda Larkin & Ralph Wolf**

*Each month Aging Watch will spotlight a member of the Iowa Commission on Aging. With gratitude for their service, we focus on Linda Larkin of Fort Madison and Ralph Wolf of Mason City. Both individuals completed their term on April 27, 2012.*

#### **Linda Larkin**

Linda Larkin has always been interested in helping older Iowans. She works for Agemark, a private company dedicated to developing and operating assisted living communities across the country. She felt that serving as a member of the Commission on Aging was directly in line with her professional career. "When the Governor approached me to serve on the Commission my only answer was an emphatic 'yes!'"

Larkin said her term on the Commission was in a word —tumultuous. "The seemingly continuous budget cuts that had to happen without interrupting services to older Iowans was really tough." She said that the change in directors was also difficult, but that the selection of Donna Harvey was excellent. "Donna is a lightning rod for change, in a good way. She is very comprehensive in her style, is good at building consensus and works extremely hard. With her leadership, the Department is in a good place to create great change." The reorganization of the Area Agencies on Aging was also challenging, Larkin feels it was a move that needed to happen to better serve older Iowans.

As Larkin leaves the Commission on Aging she hopes that with the reorganization of the Area Agencies on Aging, Iowa's Aging Network will not lose the solid grassroots support that has been built over the years. "The size of the new AAA's could make getting that input hard, but I think the AAA Directors are prepared and can assure it happens." She said that with Iowa being a relatively small state this shouldn't be too difficult. "People in Southern Iowa have pretty similar values to those in Northern Iowa and I know they will all want to do what's right for older Iowans."

Larkin lives in Fort Madison, and is married to husband Rick. They have three grown children, Laura, Nick and Joe and have six grandchildren.

Thank you, Linda, for your service to the Iowa Commission on Aging and older Iowans.

*(continued on page 12)*

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**Commission meetings:** All Iowa Commission on Aging meetings are open to the public. You may find the most current information on the Department on Aging Website [www.aging.iowa.gov](http://www.aging.iowa.gov). Next meeting: June 22, 2012.

## Commission Members

The Commission is made up of 11 members, seven of whom are appointed by the Governor. At least four of the seven must be 55 years of age or older, and no more than four can belong to the same political party. The remaining four members are Senators or Representatives, appointed by their chamber of the legislature to serve as non-voting members.

### Ralph Wolf

Ralph Wolf has been involved in the health care industry for many years at Mayo Clinic, in St Louis and most recently in Mason City. After conversations with Senator Amanda Reagan, who operates the Community Kitchen in Mason City, Wolf became interested in the Commission on Aging. "She said 'Ralph, you're an independent and you'd be a great Commissioner,' so I applied."



Wolf said that his term on the Commission was full of team work and positive changes to help older Iowans. "Getting Donna Harvey on as Director was very good. She's a team player and works very hard for Iowa." He said that the only low point of serving on the Commission was that politics played a roll. "Everyone should be responsive to older Iowans with no political aspect. I was surprised at the political aspect, surprised at the politics."

Wolf believes the reorganization of the Area Agencies on Aging was the largest issue that the Commission tackled, and will probably be what the Department focuses on in the future. "I think that the redistribution of the AAA's will take more than a couple months, it will probably take a couple years. Everyone needs to realize that and work together to make it happen. It's what's best for Iowa." Wolf said that the employees of the Department and the employees of the AAA's work very well together and can make this change relatively painless for older Iowans.

Wolf lives in Mason City and is married to his wife of 42 years, Audrey. They have two grown children, Matthew and Sarah and are expecting their first grandchild.

Thank you, Ralph, for your service to the Iowa Commission on Aging and older Iowans.

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### New Commissioners

Dr. Jill M Bjerke from Davenport and Richard Stone from Marshalltown are newly appointed to the Commission by Governor Branstad and confirmed by the Iowa Senate. Their terms are May 1, 2012 to April 30, 2016. They will be featured in future issues of AgingWatch.



Please feel free  
to forward  
AgingWatch to  
others  
who are  
interested in  
issues and  
programs that  
impact older  
Iowans.

## **Success Stories**

AgingWatch is always on the lookout for older Iowan success stories. Do you know a story about an older Iowan or a caregiver who has done something special for older Iowans? We'd love to hear those stories and possibly share them with readers in upcoming editions of AgingWatch. E-mail your success story to [aging@iowa.gov](mailto:aging@iowa.gov) (subject line: "Success Story"). Please include a short write-up/bio about the person(s) and a photo, if possible. We look forward to reading and sharing your stories!

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## **Next Month in AgingWatch:**

- Update on the Reduction of Area Agencies on Aging
- Aging and Disability Resource Centers
- Elder Rights
- Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act
- New Commissioners Dr. Jill Bjerke and Richard Stone
- And much more

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