



The MASSB Minute

Message from the Chair



Greetings, everyone. I hope that all is going well with you and your families. We are entering another month of a new year that will offer both challenges and opportunities. Considering all the competing responsibilities we have and the many tasks we must accomplish on a daily basis, we sometimes forget the power of choice. The power of choice, I believe, is particularly important in the realm of social services. Professionals, practitioners, and volunteers in this field make important choices on a daily basis meant to help others. The individual help offered, wide range of civic engagement activities organized by boards across the state, and the subsequent cumulative impact of that support and engagement have profound impacts on our communities. In fact, the cumulative impact of these activities translates into the betterment of our communities and society as whole. At the same time, resources are needed to make a positive impact. Accordingly, MASSB will be on your side to offer resources and support to carry out your responsibilities and accomplish the many tasks meant to help vulnerable individuals and families in your community. I hope you enjoy this month's MASSB Minute and encourage each of you to reach out to us for support.

Best,
Tony

PLEASE JOIN US!

Winter Legislative Conference

Boost your board members' knowledge of the current legislative climate as it affects our local Departments of Social Services and meet our new liaison, Rachel Sledge, DHS Director of Government Affairs.

Rachel will review legislation that impacts the work and mission of DSS. A member from each board is encouraged to attend to be updated and learn how local boards may be supportive of legislative efforts during the current session.

Saturday, February 11th, 9am - 12pm
Hosted by Anns Arundel County DSS
80 West Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(Further logistical details will be shared closer to date. Virtual option will also be available.)

RVSP to trustee@MASSBFoundation.org

Quick Tip

Make the most of your board's time together by holding effective meetings. Distribute agendas in advance, come prepared, and assign a note taker. While formats may vary by County, a well constructed agenda allows for discussion of current events and future planning; and provides a tool for time management. Volunteer hours are priceless...don't waste them on unproductive meetings!

Community Connection: Queen Anne's County

Michael Francis, Advisory Board Chair



Most people call my wife Bon Bon and for me I go as Mikey in most Nursing Home's and Assisted Living Facilities in Queen Anne's County. We have been serving for the past 17 years providing Non-Denominational Church Services to the people we love living in these homes. Having close relationships and serving in the homes we found that some services offered did not reach those that lived in these settings. After retiring from county government I wanted to find out about services that may help those in the homes. The plan was to get involved with agencies that had info on these services, then bring the info back to the people. Little did I know that after a year I would be selected as Chairperson for the Queen Anne's County Social Services Board. My wife and I are also Chaplains with a Ministry called Team RFC. We provide a Church Service for large car show venues and minister to fellow car folks in need. If you are at a car show on the Eastern Shore look for us we would love to meet you.

The QACDSS Board has a great team of compassionate members with some awesome skill sets. We are currently bringing our By-Laws up to date and working on a set of goals the board outlined in a recent workshop. Currently our county does not have any Project Home providers and we are looking at how it would fit and work in Queen Anne's County.

The quality of life in our county is second to none. But you must get used to the slower pace of life here. Once you cross that bridge, I believe there is a time warp when you reach the Eastern Shore. Everything is slower! If you need something done figure 1 week here equals 1 day on the Western Shore. Also make sure what you say about someone is nice. Chances are whoever you are talking to knows the person you are talking about.

Please come over and visit us and find out what life on the Shore is all about. (Stopping to get gas or using the bathroom on the way to Ocean City does not count.)

Thanks for the opportunity to share about QAC. I am looking forward to meeting everyone in some upcoming MASSB Meetings.

FEBRUARY is Senior Independence Month

The theme of our 2022 Conference was "Eldercare", and we were treated to several excellent presentations on preserving safety and quality of life for seniors. One presentation explained how Queen Anne's County joined the Villages movement with the establishment of Queen Anne's at Home, a volunteer organization that promotes connectedness, empowerment and purpose among it's members. Check out this gem at [QA@H](#), and learn more about the Villages movement by visiting the [Village to Village Network](#).



Ready to Fundraise?

If your Strategic Plan includes projects that require fundraising, creating a Fundraising Plan is the next step in helping your board realize its goals. Consider these factors when creating your plan:

- What are your Fundraising Goals?**
 - How much money do you want to raise?
 - What is the purpose? (a specific purpose such as "youth camp" is more attractive to donors than general fundraisers)
- Fundraising Methods**
 - Be honest about your available manpower. Large fundraisers take a lot of effort. It's ok to start with one or two small or medium sized events to gain experience and visibility in the community.
 - Don't plow new ground! Seek lessons learned from organizations who have held similar fundraisers to increase your chance of success.
 - Look for local grant opportunities which are easier to secure than large, competitive grants.
 - Nominate an innovative program for a monetary award at our annual conference!
- Plan**
 - Once you've selected your approach, develop a planning timeline and assign actions to your board members or volunteers. Check status regularly to make sure everything is on track.
- Tell Your Story**
 - Know your audience! Advertise your fundraiser using stories that speak to the heart. MASSB has a collection of testimonials from people we have helped. Contact trustee@massfoundation.org for assistance.
- Execute!**
- Wrap Up**
 - Compile a list of lessons learned for the future.
 - Post photos of your event on social media for additional visibility.
 - Document fundraising expenses and revenue for year-end accounting.
- Thank Your Donors**
 - If possible, thank your donors by personal note or letter and ensure they receive the MASSBF tax ID #26-1192752. Lay the groundwork for future donations!



We highlighted several board fundraisers in the MASSB Minute last year. If you have an idea to share, or need advice planning your fundraiser, please reach out! **Let's help each other be successful as we fundraise to help vulnerable Marylanders.** [Click here](#) for ideas!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

"COFFEE CORNER FOR FUNDRAISERS" presented by Maryland Nonprofits. 10 February 2023, 09:00 AM - 10:00 AM, and every 2nd Friday of the month.

E-mail trustee@massfoundation.org to register.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY • Winter Conference: Saturday, 2/11, 9am-12pm, Annapolis & Virtual

- Legislative Initiatives
- Treasurer's Report
- Introduction of 2023 Conference

APRIL • Community Meeting: Friday, 4/21, 12pm-1pm, Virtual

JULY • Community Meeting: Friday, 7/21, 12pm-1pm, Virtual

OCTOBER • Fall Conference: (TBD)

Don't miss an issue! Be sure to add MASSB Foundation to your e-mail contacts.

What's going on in your county?

Have an idea to share? We'd love to include your success stories in the MASSB Minute. Email trustee@massfoundation.org.

www.massfoundation.org

Our mailing address is: MASSB Foundation, P.O. Box 2351, Annapolis, MD 21401

Want to change how you receive these emails? You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.