

County of Sonoma			Clerk of the Board Use Only Meeting Date ____/____/____ Agenda Item No: _____	
Agenda Item Summary Report				
Department: Human Services Department			<input type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Required	
Contact: Diane Kaljian	Phone: (707) 565-5932	Board Date: 05/12/09	Deadline for Board Action: 05/12/09	
AGENDA SHORT TITLE: Older Americans Month				
REQUESTED BOARD ACTION: Approve resolution proclaiming May as Older Americans Month				
CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT				
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>			<u>ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL</u>	
Estimated Cost	\$	000.00	Contingencies (Fund Name:)	\$ 000.00
Amount Budgeted	\$	000.00	Unanticipated Revenue (Source:)	\$ 000.00
Other Available Approp. (Explain Below)	\$	000.00	Other Transfer(s) (Source:)	\$ 000.00
Additional Requested:	\$	0.00	Additional Funds Requested	\$ 0.00
Explanation (if required):				
Prior Board Action(s): 05/13/08 Resolution 08-0436 proclaimed May 2008 as Older Americans Month				
Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval:				

Background:

As proclaimed by the President and Congress of the United States, the Governor of California, and the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, May is celebrated as Older Americans Month. The Sonoma County theme for Older Americans Month is "Learning Today for Living Tomorrow." This theme speaks to the opportunities available for older adults for lifelong learning and preparing today for changes tomorrow, such as:

- Making behavioral changes in their lifestyles that can reduce risk of disease, disability and injury with a special focus on fall prevention;
- Ensuring safe driving, evaluating and improving driving skills;
- Identifying transportation alternatives to continue active participation in community events and activities as one grows older .

Celebration:

For the past eleven years, the AAA Advisory Council has celebrated Older Americans Month by recognizing local senior artists with a one-day art show at the Santa Rosa Veteran’s Memorial Auditorium. This event will continue but will now take place at the Finley Community Center in Santa Rosa during the months of September and October 2009. The art display will now be hung for six weeks rather than one day, making it more available for many to enjoy.

Older Americans Month will feature the CarFit program at the Santa Rosa Veteran’s Memorial Auditorium on May 21. The CarFit program is a new and exciting educational program created by the American Society on Aging and developed in collaboration with the American Automobile Association, AARP, and the Occupational Therapist Association. CarFit checks how well a driver and car work together. Trained volunteers will ask simple questions and complete a 12-point CarFit checklist with the driver and his/her vehicle. The entire process takes about 15 minutes, and the driver leaves with recommended car adjustments and adaptations, a list of resources in their area, and greater peace of mind.

CarFit appointments are conducted in the parking lot of the Santa Rosa Veteran’s Memorial Auditorium. Within the building there will be informational sessions on safe driving, transportation alternatives, resources on health and fitness, and information on walking for healthy living, improving your balance and preventing falls.

Leadership Award:

In 2001, as a part of Older Americans Month, the Executive Committee of the Area Agency on Aging established the Leadership Award as an opportunity to acknowledge a member of the Advisory Council who displays the leadership, commitment and passion for senior issues, and motivates fellow members of the Advisory Council to dream bigger dreams.

Attachments:

Resolution

On File With Clerk:

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote:

Background (continued):

With the death of long time Advisory Council member Marge Ling, recipient of the leadership award in 2004, the Executive Committee voted unanimously to rename the award the Marge Ling Leadership Award.

Marge Ling served on the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council from 1996 until her death in March of 2004. During that time she served as chair of the Advisory Council, chair of the Planning and Funding Committee, member of the Executive Committee, chair of the Making the Link Task Force which provided information to health care professionals about the needs of caregivers. Marge could be counted on to attend community outreach events and provide presentations to the community. She was continually distributing "Senior Resource Guides" in the community. Even in her final days during hospital stays, she instructed her husband, Hal, to take "Senior Resource Guides" to the discharge planners at the hospital.

Marge was a strong advocate willing to meet with legislators to promote the needs and concerns of seniors and their caregivers in Sonoma County. She was a role model for aging gracefully, for both Advisory Council members and staff. Her ability to focus on the positive and her concerns for others made, not just the Advisory Council a better group, but the world a better place.

The Executive Committee is pleased to present the Marge Ling Leadership Award to Bud Metzger. Mr. Metzger has served on the Advisory Council since September of 1996. He was appointed to the Advisory Council by Supervisor Tim Smith and has served continuously since that time. Bud has served as chair of the Advisory Council, chair of the Planning and Funding Committee, and co-chair of the Senior Art Show Committee. He has been a member of the Transportation and Mobility Committee. He has assisted in needs assessment activities by interviewing key informants to determine senior needs in the community and participated in monitoring of senior programs at community agencies. Mr. Metzger has also assisted with revising the bylaws, participated in legislative advocacy, promoted elder abuse prevention activities, and fundraising for the senior art show event. Mr. Metzger has responded positively to both Advisory Council members and staff when asked again, and again and again to lead a project, make a phone call, send an email or finish a project. In appreciation for his more than 12 years of service on the Advisory Council and hopefully many more years of service, the Advisory Council and staff extend their appreciation to Bud Metzger.

Requested Board Action:

Approve resolution proclaiming May as Older Americans Month