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May-June 2014

The annual meeting of the Colorado Senior Lobby will be held on August 16, 2014. The location will be the Castle Rock Recreation & Senior Center. This continues our tradition of holding the annual meeting in various locations throughout the greater metro area. (Although this does not preclude meeting elsewhere in the state.)

Last year we established an award for one or more persons who deserves recognition for Serving Our Seniors. This year the Board of Directors has selected two outstanding individuals who have been instrumental in expanding the laws protecting seniors from “elder abuse.” The recipients are Scott Storey and Evie Hudak: Scott for his work within the criminal justice system and Evie for her work in the Legislature.

We will also give special recognition to two individuals who made a special contribution to Senior Day at the Capitol. Steve Grund was instrumental planning and orchestrating the morning session. Tara Franck provided organization skills and implemented the many details that make a program successful.

**Evie Hudak
Senior Lobby SOS Recipient
Former State Senator
and Member of State Board of Education**

Evie Hudak was elected to the Colorado State Senate in 2008 and re-elected in 2012, but she resigned in November 2013 to prevent a potential recall election. Before serving in the State Senate, she spent 8 years as an elected member of the Colorado State Board of Education. Her background includes being a teacher at the secondary and junior college levels for many years, and the director of various programs, including the state’s School Readiness Quality Improvement Program. While in the State Senate, Evie’s main areas of focus were education, poverty

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The ultimate folly is to think that something crucial to your welfare is being taken care of for you.

—Robert Brault, American operatic tenor

A special thank you to the Volunteers of America for providing the Senior Lobby with meeting rooms for the weekly Legislative Committee meetings and for the monthly Directors meeting.

Bookkeeping

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CPA

John P. Moran 720-635-3180

These individuals provide important pro bono support for the Colorado Senior Lobby

This mandatory reporting law will help a large segment of our Colorado population. With the aging of the Baby Boomers, this population will only continue to grow. There is a growing need to get this information about mandatory reporting of abuse and financial exploitation out to the general public. Recently, there has been a huge surge in the number of seniors who are the victims of financial exploitation. Mandatory reporting will help not only the elderly, but also their family members and friends.

The news media can go a long way to make this information public. It will help senior citizens realize that any abuse or financial exploitation must be reported by any professionals interacting with them. It will put abusers on notice that their actions will no longer be tolerated. The Colorado Senior Lobby and other organizations serving seniors, as well as several Colorado agencies including law enforcement, would welcome the coverage to aid them in their duties and responsibilities.

The issue of elder abuse needs to be brought to the public's attention.

Steve Grund Special Recognition Contribution to Senior Day at the Capitol

Steve is a marketing, media and communications professional with a track record of strategic planning, message building and raising the performance bar. He is a veteran in developing key relationships. Steve arranged for Mark Koebrich news anchor with Channel 9, to get the event off to a dynamic start. As MC of the event, Steve coordinated

reduction, and criminal justice, but she also became a strong advocate for funding of senior services. Most notably, she succeeded in passing a bill for mandatory reporting of elder abuse, which had been attempted unsuccessfully seven times before. Evie is currently doing extensive research on elder issues for the Bell Policy Center.

Scott W. Storey
Senior Lobby SOS Recipient
Senior Chief Deputy District Attorney
First Judicial District Attorney's Office
Serving Jefferson and Gilpin Counties

Scott Storey served as District Attorney of Jefferson and Gilpin counties for two four-year terms, from 2005-2012. He has returned to prosecution as a Senior Chief Deputy District Attorney in the First Judicial District Attorney's Office, supervising the Elder Abuse Unit.

Prior to being elected District Attorney, Storey was a prosecutor for 18 years, serving 15 years in the First Judicial District. During his two terms, Storey's accomplishments include a proactive fraud and identity theft prevention program, Economic Crime Unit, establishment of a second grand jury in Jefferson County, and Colorado's first dedicated Elder Abuse Unit. Committed to crime prevention through education and community involvement, Storey established a 501(c)(3) Community Partnership to help fund prevention programs within the District Attorney's Office. He was the 2008-2009 President of the Colorado District Attorney's Council.

***As of July 1, New Legislation for
Reporting of Elder Abuse Goes into Effect***

Colorado takes an important step forward in the prevention and detection of elder abuse on July 1, when the law for mandatory reporting of abuse of at-risk elders goes into effect fully. We believe that public awareness is important in dealing with this serious issue. Therefore, we will be distributing the following release to the media to assist in facilitation of the new law.

It is hereby requested that the news media report on the implementation of Senate Bill 13-111, Mandatory Reporting of Elder Abuse. It is in the general public interest for the news media to let everyone know about this new law. This is the first major change to the law regarding the treatment of at-risk elders in Colorado since 1991. Before this legislation was passed, the state only had voluntary reporting. During those years from 1991 to the present, the media has focused much more on child abuse. The time has come for abuse of seniors to get the same recognition as abuse of children.

every aspect, making it flow as smoothly as any political event. Those of us who attend political events on a regular basis know this is not easy.

We have a video of the morning and afternoon sessions available. Our web page (ColoradoSeniorLobby.org) has links so you can have access to them. Steve planned this and coordinated with the videographer to edit the videos, eliminating “dead spaces” but not altering substantive content.

Tara Franck
Aging and Adult Services
Colorado Department of Human Services

Senior Day at the Capitol has a multitude of details. These are generally not obvious. but when they are not correctly managed the attendees notice that things are not quite right. Tara has provided much of the organizational support needed to make the event successful.

Colorado Senior Lobby Legislative Committee
Summer Schedule

The Legislative Committee meets weekly when the Legislature is in session and bi-weekly at other times. The schedule is available at ColoradoSeniorLobby.org. When the Legislature is in session the committee discusses current legislation and considers whether to support or oppose the legislation — or sometimes just monitoring it.

The summer schedule is equally important. This is when the committee reviews upcoming legislation and evaluates if it should promote legislation and assist in drafting a bill that deals with an issue of importance that is not getting sufficient attention by legislators.

The committee sees a real need for better planning for the future impact of the senior population. This needs to be a coordinated effort with governmental agencies, non-profits, and private companies providing services to seniors.

There will be focused attention on working with others to build a coalition of interested parties to create a plan for the future. A failure to adequately plan will, in the long term, be very costly to the state and ultimately the taxpayer.

The objective is to minimize the demands on programs such as Medicaid. These programs are absolutely essential, but can be costly. It is imperative that the state find

A mother is not a person to lean on but a person to make leaning unnecessary.
~Dorothy C. Fisher

The world is full of women blindsided by the unceasing demands of motherhood, still flabbergasted by how a job can be terrific and torturous.
~Anna Quindlen

To nourish children and raise them against odds is any time, any place, more valuable than to fix bolts in cars or design nuclear weapons.
~Marilyn French

the most cost-effective solutions to the needs of seniors, while maintaining a positive quality of life.

The committee is very interested in the funding of the Older Coloradans Act. This act supports some of the most cost effective programs — activities that keep seniors in their homes and independent. We anticipate working to find Legislators who understand the importance of this Act and will work with the committee to draft legislation for the upcoming session.

What makes the act, and the services it provides, so important? The Older Coloradans Act is a key program for a reasonable policy. The programs provided by this act impact those who truly need assistance. Keeping seniors healthy and in their own homes, or in the environment of their choice, is the cornerstone of a reasonable policy for seniors.

This act is so important for controlling future costs that it must be financed in a sound, reliable manner. Providing reliable funding for the Older Coloradans Act is an important step in managing future costs.

The math is simple: If you delay someone from needing a nursing home by one year, the saving is approximately \$50,000 (net of Social Security retirement income). Funding this act through the Long Bill is very short sighted and does not provide the type of commitment that will obtain the best future savings and efficiency of provided services.

The Colorado Senior Lobby strongly recommends that the Legislature look to the future and take actions to fund the Older Coloradans Act as originally proposed in SB13-127. The \$6 million we wanted this year would get the funding back on track. But the funding needs to all be provided by statute. Currently some funding is statutory and some is provided by the Long Bill.

Most expenses have some flexibility in adjusting to the fluctuations in available resources, even though painful, such as limits on education funding. Some do not, or the cuts are so unpleasant that a failure to provide minimum assistance makes reduction in services an absolute last resort.

The Older Coloradans Act is a key program for a reasonable policy. The programs provided by this act impact those who truly need assistance. Money committed to the Older Coloradans Act will result in savings many times larger than the expenditures. It is clearly prudent to make this investment.

Many companies that provide the type of care and services supported by the Older Coloradans Act are small businesses, and by necessity are cautious when making commitments to expand their business. This is a situation where they need confidence that funding will be available.

Don't Change Your Nature

A very old man used to meditate early every morning under a large tree on the bank of the Ganges River in India. One morning he saw a scorpion flailing helplessly in the strong current of the river, tangled in a complex network of tree roots.

The old man immediately reached out to rescue the drowning scorpion. The panicked animal tried to sting him, but the man persisted. For several minutes his hand darted back and forth, evading the scorpion's deadly stinger as he tried to rescue it.

A passerby saw the struggle and called out, "Hey, old man, what's wrong with you? You're going to get yourself killed. Just let it go."

The man sat back and looked calmly into the stranger's eyes. "Friend," he said. "It is the nature of the scorpion to sting. It is my nature to save the helpless. I do not expect him to change his nature to suit me, nor will I change my nature to suit him."

It is a confident person who stays true to their nature when being pressured to change.



Mother Sets the Tone

"Yes, I know—you walked five miles to school, barefoot in the snow, and it was uphill...both ways!"

That's how I sometimes tease a friend whose memories of the Depression are dark and difficult. My own recollections of those days are much more upbeat. Why the difference?

Thinking about it now, I realize that my mother set the tone of our lives back then. The Depression and all its deprivation might have entered our St. Paul, Nebraska home...but Mother never let it enter our hearts.

How could I not feel the joy of life when we were having so much fun "skating" on our dining room floor? After she rubbed paste wax on the surface, we'd don heavy socks and do the polishing by skating and dancing on it.

Mother fought dullness with beauty. She used my watercolors to paint pictures on plain white paper, turning it into colorful wrappings for homemade gifts. She always managed to find paint to brighten our kitchen. When she painted the trim on the kitchen table and chairs, she also painted the wooden handles of large spoons and other utensils.

Even when doing the toughest chores, Mother had a way of having fun. I remember how we struggled to bring in frozen clothes from the line during winter.

Instead of complaining about our stinging hands, we'd laugh and prop the stiff clothes on chairs like people until the clothing thawed.

And she was a brave woman. During those hard times, Mother must have felt discouragement and worry...and she probably cried some secret tears. But she was determined that our lives would be full of pleasant memories.

~by Venus Bardanouve, excerpted from *Reminisce Magazine* online

SAVE THE DATE

SENIOR LOBBY ANNUAL MEETING AUGUST 16, 2014

LOCATION

Castle Rock Recreation & Senior Center

2323 Woodlands Blvd
Castle Rock, Co 80104

There will be a short business meeting. Most of the meeting will consist of a program featuring legislators and people serving the senior community.

You do not have to be a member to attend — just have an interest in matters affecting seniors.

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greatest asset any
country can have.”
— Winston Churchill

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