

**LeadingAge Connecticut** offers a strong and distinct voice for our members from across the continuum of aging services, supports and housing. Together with our members we work to expand the world of possibilities for aging.

The following highlights from the past year demonstrate our mission to **inspire, serve and advocate**.

**The 54th Annual Meeting** welcomed three newly elected Directors to the LeadingAge Connecticut Board and featured keynote speaker Dr. Cheryl Phillips, Senior Vice President, Public Policy and Advocacy at LeadingAge in Washington, DC, who discussed being the voice and leading change in aging services.



**The Annual LeadingAge Connecticut Awards Ceremony** honored individuals for their contributions to our field and to those we serve. This year we honored Distinguished Service Award recipient Stephen McPherson, Rick Wallace Award of Merit recipient Robert LaQuerre, Legislators of the Year Award recipients State Senator Beth Bye and State Representative Toni Walker. The Chair's Award was presented to the LeadingAge Connecticut Leadership Academy Design and Coaching Team.

**LeadingAge Connecticut's legislative and regulatory advocacy efforts remained strong** as we continued to lead with a legislative agenda aimed at shaping the future of aging services in Connecticut. Together with our excellent advocacy team of Wiggin and Dana our legal counsel, Robinson & Cole our lobbying firm, and Blum Shapiro our reimbursement consultants, we provided exemplary representation on behalf of our members in the halls of the State Capitol and the offices of our state agencies and this year achieved an across the board Medicaid rate increase for home and community based service providers.



**LeadingAge Connecticut members were kept up-to-date** on our advocacy efforts and current events through the member-only "**Capitol Line**" weekly e-newsletter, our timely legislative alerts, and a comprehensive legislative year end summary prepared by Wiggin and Dana. Visit our website at [www.LeadngAgeCT.org](http://www.LeadngAgeCT.org).



**LeadingAge Connecticut members, staff, and consultants were active participants** in the state's various task forces and committees charged with assisting in the **transformation and rebalancing of the Medicaid program** and we continued to have a representative on the **Money Follows the Person Steering Committee** and the **Long Term Care Advisory Committee**. We also maintained an active presence at the **Council on Medical Assistance Program Oversight** and the **Senior Safety Zone Task Force**.

**LeadingAge Connecticut Leadership Academy** graduated our second class of bright and eager fellows who experienced a year-long leadership development program modeled after the LeadingAge national leadership program. Seventeen graduates were recognized during a special graduation ceremony at LeadingAge Connecticut's October Annual Meeting. In January, seventeen new fellows will be entering the third class of this statewide Leadership Academy.



**LeadingAge Connecticut members were inspired at the Annual Expo and Tradeshow** in the spring which featured a keynote address by Diane Smith, co-author of the New York Times bestseller *OBSSESSED*. Other highlights of the day included the Annual Employee of the Year Awards, a *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire* game show on the tradeshow floor, and a *Redefining Technology* presentation from Jack York, CEO, *It's Never 2 Late*. Save the date of May 13<sup>th</sup> for Expo 2015!

**A wide array of educational opportunities** were offered throughout the year for all levels of membership staff. New programs such as a **Housekeeping and Maintenance Symposium** and **CNA Development Forum** were introduced to assist members with staying current on important topics related to their positions. **LeadingAge Connecticut's Board of Directors meetings**, open to the membership on a bimonthly basis, featured valuable and timely information and discussion. Member-only educational breakfast sessions on timely topics were also held prior to several of the Board meetings.



**Savings opportunities** continued for members as they accessed our Group Purchasing Program, **Value First**, which provides excellent pricing on products focused on the needs of aging services and senior housing providers. **Start saving today!** For more information, just contact Stu Wanicur, Group Purchasing Specialist at [swanicur@valuefirstonline.com](mailto:swanicur@valuefirstonline.com), 609-955-2417.