

## **Commission on Aging Minutes December 21, 2023**

In lieu of a formal meeting, commissioners and staff from county agencies and other CoA partners gathered at the Holiday Park Senior Center for a holiday luncheon. The meal was planned and organized by the Senior Nutrition Program's restaurant initiative. With the exception of awardees of the of the Community for a Lifetime Award CLA (see below), each attendee paid for his/her/their own lunch. Meals for the awardees were paid for with commission funds.

### **Community for A Lifetime Awards ceremony**

David Engel thanked the chair of the committee, Wayne Berman, for his commitment to organizing and planning this tribute. He also acknowledged the community members who participated on the panel to select the 2023 recipients: Shawn Brennan, Dr. Rena Eichler, Marcia Pruzan, Katie Smith, and Yvette Monroe.

- The following individuals received 2023 CLA recognition:
  - *Ms. Mary Jo Deering, Washington Area Village Exchange*

Ms. Deering was recognized for her work in the Montgomery County Village movement and as president of the Washington Area Village Exchange (WAVE). Her work helps to achieve the CoA's vision as demonstrated through efforts in Village movement since 2014, when she helped to create and lead an intergenerational, no-fee village in her own neighborhood. Her success and leadership on the WAVE board led to a successful 2019 conference. She became the WAVE president in 2021.

- *OASIS Metro Washington Lifelong Learning Program*

This award was given in recognition of OASIS' long-term service and innovative programming to the older adult community in Montgomery County. OASIS is dedicated to serving older adults through lifelong learning, computer technology, health promotion, and volunteering (including intergenerational tutoring). It is committed to equity and access for all older adults through excellence in programming, partnerships, and practices. It has been a pioneer in healthy aging for 40 years and specifically has become a valuable asset for older adults in the County. Accepting the award for Oasis is the Executive Director, Ms. Anna Stoke, Executive Director, accepted the award on behalf of the organization.

- *Stuart Rosenthal, Publisher of the Beacon Newspaper*

The award recognizes the long-term service and community leadership to the older adult community in Montgomery County that the Beacon newspaper through

the efforts of its publisher have provided, as demonstrated by publishing the monthly print and online editions of the Beacon. In addition, each year, in partnership with Montgomery County, Maryland, the Beacon and its team print and distribute, free of charge, the comprehensive directory, *the Montgomery County Seniors' Resource Guide*. Mr. Rosenthal's dedication to helping the older adults in Montgomery County is also demonstrated by producing the 50+ Expo each year with hundreds of exhibitors and providing health screenings for our residents.