



Special points of interest:

- **CT Survey of State Legislative Issues**
- **CHCPE Mandate**
- **2010 Legislative Priorities**
- **Annual Meeting & Carlson Forum**

Volume XXXIX April 2010

CT Coalition on Aging
www.CoalitionAgingCT.org

President: John Hogarth
Secretary: Sharon Garrard
Treasurer: Ned Skinnon

If you would like to be more involved with the CCOA . . .

Be sure to regularly check the website at:

www.CoalitionAgingCT.org

Please feel free to contact
our President

John Hogarth at

JHogarth@ci.meriden.ct.us

You can contact our Secretary

Sharon Garrard at

sgarrard@hebronct.com

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

Results of the CT Coalition on Aging 2010 Legislative Survey

1. **Health Care: Provide access to prescription drugs at lower cost to seniors. (55% of respondents)**
2. **Aging and Disability: Fund home and community-based program and service expansions. (50% of respondents)**
3. **Funding Needs: Support housing improvements for seniors and the disabled. (48% of respondents)**
4. **Health Care: Support comprehensive universal health care for all. (46% of respondents)**
5. **Funding Needs: Provide property tax reform. (34% of respondents)**

The CT Coalition on Aging Annual Survey of State Legislative Issues generated a total of 500 responses from across the state. 74% of the people were over the age of 65, and the survey had three categories; Health Care, Aging & Disability Services and Funding Needs. In addition to the above responses the following comments and concerns were also noted:

- Provide funding for hearing aids
- Eliminate the co-pay for the Connecticut Homecare Program for Elders
- Provide adequate reimbursement for Medicaid providers
- Reinstate Alzheimer respite funds
- Provide better public transportation for the disabled and seniors including Dial a Ride
- Continue funding of adult day care and senior centers
- Make more resources available to fight fraud against the elderly

CT Coalition on Aging, Inc.

**Connecticut Coalition on Aging, Inc.
2009/2010 Survey of State Legislative Issues**

414 Participants**Health Care - 725 responses**

126	Access to prescription drugs	17 %
258	Lower drug cost	36%
203	Comprehensive universal health care for all	28%
138	Health care work force: Training and fair salaries for healthcare workers	19 %

Aging and Disability - 442 responses

221	Home and Community-based program/ service expansion	50%
85	End of life issues	19%
136	Resourcing and program options: information, referral, health and social services access	31%

Funding Needs - 651 responses

131	Tax credits for family caregivers	20%
158	Property tax reform	24%
141	Maintain State Funding for municipalities	22%
221	Housing improvements for seniors and disabled	34%

Are you over or under the age of 65?

305	Over 65	74%
89	Under 65	21 %
20	No response	5%

Mandating state-funded Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE) participants to contribute 15% to their monthly home care services THE REAL IMPACT:

- It is estimated that 4,940 state-funded elders will be required to pay 15% toward the monthly cost of their home care services.
- Their average monthly total CHCPE care plan costs \$1,013.
- Eighty-two percent of these elders are below 200 percent of the poverty level.
- Sixty percent of these elders live alone and have an average monthly income of \$1,390.
- They take an average of eight to nine medications each month with an average co-pay of approximately \$200/month.
- Their average amount of assets total \$10,147.
- Seventy percent have been assessed at a nursing home level of care.

Data source: DSS Data Specification for Access Agency Files Fiscal Year 2009

- The average annual cost to taxpayers to keep these elders home on the CHCPE is \$12,156.
- The average annual cost to taxpayers if these elders need to be admitted to nursing facilities will be \$66,000*.

*Considering in about a month, the average assets will be spent down making the elder eligible for Medicaid.

Call your governor & legislators to ask: **WHERE IS THE SAVINGS?**

Governor's office: 1-800-406-1527

Governor's email: Governor.Rell@ct.gov

Find your legislators' contact info. At: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/cgafindleg.asp>

The mandated 15% cost share not only burdens CHCPE participants, it burdens the taxpayer.

The Connecticut Coalition on Aging thanks you for your continued support every year. If you know of someone who would like to receive this information and would like to become a member, please pass on this information to them. To help save the environment, the Connecticut Coalition on Aging will communicate to you electronically via email (when email is provided) regarding your membership status. Please email ctcoaging@aol.com for questions concerning your membership status.



Membership Application Form
CT Coalition on Aging

Membership dues cover one year from date of payment
 Make checks payable to CCOA

Please detach and mail to: **Coalition on Aging**

c/o Ned Skinnon, West Hartford Senior Center, 15 Starkel Rd, West Hartford, CT 06117

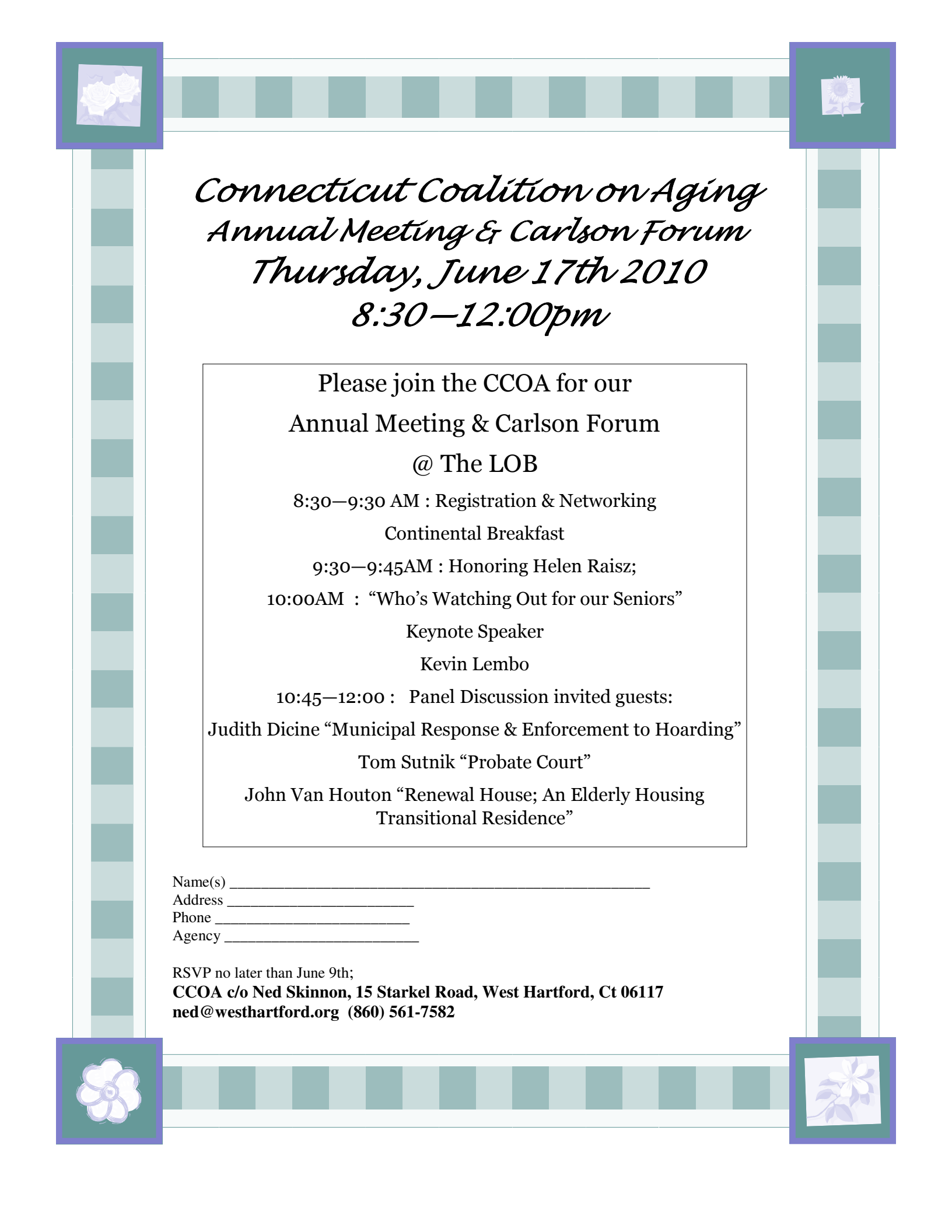
- \$25 Individual membership includes all newsletters and notices, plus the Coalition's Legislative bulletin of the CT General Assembly session**
- \$50 Membership for Municipal and Non-Profit Organizations. Receive all newsletter, the Legislative bulletin and notices of meetings**
- \$100 Private organization or corporation. Receive all communications**
- _____ Donation**

Name:		Phone 1:
Organization:		Phone 2:
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*Connecticut Coalition on Aging
Annual Meeting & Carlson Forum
Thursday, June 17th 2010
8:30–12:00pm*

Please join the CCOA for our
Annual Meeting & Carlson Forum
@ The LOB

8:30–9:30 AM : Registration & Networking
Continental Breakfast

9:30–9:45AM : Honoring Helen Raisz;

10:00AM : “Who’s Watching Out for our Seniors”

Keynote Speaker

Kevin Lembo

10:45–12:00 : Panel Discussion invited guests:

Judith Dicine “Municipal Response & Enforcement to Hoarding”

Tom Sutnik “Probate Court”

John Van Houton “Renewal House; An Elderly Housing
Transitional Residence”

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Agency _____

RSVP no later than June 9th;

CCOA c/o Ned Skinnon, 15 Starkel Road, West Hartford, Ct 06117

ned@westhartford.org (860) 561-7582