

What Have We Done for You Lately? May 2019

OUR STORY | MAY 29, 2019 | BY GERALYN MAGAN

RALLIED FOR HOUSING

One of May's major highlights came early in the month when U.S. Senators and Representatives joined senior housing residents and other affordable housing advocates at our May 8 **Senior Housing NOW rally** on the lawn of the U.S. Capitol.

More than 1,100 people came to the rally, which LeadingAge organized to ask Congress for expansion and preservation of affordable housing opportunities for older adults with very low incomes. Participants from the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Florida, Ohio, and California were joined at the rally by Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA), Rep. William Lacy Clay (D-MO), Rep. Katie Hill (D-CA), and Rep. Donna Shalala (D-FL).

CELEBRATED OLDER AMERICANS

LeadingAge helped members participate fully in the annual **Older Americans Month** celebration throughout the month of May. We created a toolkit with social media ideas and **infocards** to make it easy for members to spread the word about the month's theme: Connect, Create, Contribute. Each week, we focused our own social media campaign on mini-themes highlighting our collective commitment to enhancing volunteerism and education, expanding affordable senior housing and intergenerational programs, promoting wellness, and reducing social isolation.

ADVOCATED FOR YOU AND THE PEOPLE YOU SERVE

LeadingAge raised its voice about a number of legislative and regulatory issues during May.

Older Americans Act: Our President and CEO Katie Smith Sloan issued letters committing LeadingAge to working with the Senate Special Committee on Aging, the Senate Health Education Labor and Pension (HELP) Committee, and the House Education and Labor Committee on bipartisan reauthorization of **the Older**

Americans Act (OAA), which expires at the end of September. Sloan also signed a separate letter from the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations recommending that lawmakers double funding for OAA over 5 years, and enhance the Senior Community Service Employment Program to ensure that eligible participants can consider employment opportunities in aging services.

Service Coordinators: LeadingAge staff met with a **panel of multifamily program office directors** at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in early May to discuss the growing challenges to budget-based funding of service coordination in Section 8 and PRAC properties.

Executive Compensation: In **comments filed** with the U.S. Department of Labor, LeadingAge agreed with the proposed \$35,308 annual salary threshold for defining executive, administrative, and professional employees' exemption from federal minimum wage and overtime pay requirements. However, we maintained that any future adjustments should be subject to proposed rulemaking.

RELEASED RESOURCES

LeadingAge released several helpful resources in May. Check these out:

Connecting Generations in Senior Housing: A Program Implementation Toolkit provides practical information, guidance, and templates to help senior housing providers, and other organizations serving older adults, implement high-quality intergenerational programs that will benefit elders and young people in their communities.

Our new **Staff Competency Toolkit**© is designed to provide operational and clinical leaders with helpful staff competency implementation guidelines, training plans, templates, resources, and tools. The toolkit addresses 25 areas of knowledge, skills, and abilities for staff across disciplines.

The May/June edition of **LeadingAge magazine** takes a closer look at the challenge of scaling home and community-based services—including home health and home care services, adult day programs, and hospice and palliative care—so older adults can age successfully in community.

The magazine also includes 2 podcasts: **Serving Older Adults Living With Parkinson's** and **Community-Based Expansion**. Meanwhile, a new installment of our Workforce Innovators Podcast focuses on **creating career paths for nursing and home health workers**.

LeadingAge Catalyst: Our **May 2019 LeadingAge Catalyst** program recognized The Vigil Volunteers at Carleton-Willard Village in Bedford, MA, a group of trained volunteers, most of them Carleton-Willard Village residents, who sit with other residents and their families to offer a quiet and comforting presence at the end of life.

DEMONSTRATED THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

LeadingAge staff represented nonprofit providers this month by demonstrating their leadership in the larger LTSS field and sharing their expertise on pressing issues.

President and CEO Katie Smith Sloan was one of a group of women honored by *McKnight's Long-Term Care News* as part of its new **Women of Distinction** awards. The honorees, selected in March, were feted at a ceremony this month.

A group of LeadingAge team members contributed to the **Spring 2019 issue of Generations**, the journal of the American Society on Aging. **Ruth Katz**, senior vice president of public policy/advocacy served as guest editor of the issue, entitled ***The Financing of Long-Term Care: An American Conundrum***. She was joined by a panel of 25 authors, including several LeadingAge colleagues: Barbara Gay, vice president of public policy communications; Robyn Stone and Marc Cohen, co-directors of the LeadingAge LTSS Center @UMass Boston; and **Alisha Sanders**, director of housing and services policy research at the LTSS Center.

In addition, Robyn Stone and Natasha Bryant of the LTSS Center wrote about “The Future of the Home Care Workforce: Training and Supporting Aides as Members of Home-Based Care Teams” in the May 2019 issue of the ***Journal of the American Geriatrics Society***.