

## SHL Coordinators

### AGING AHEAD

**Jan Keith and Kerri Gallagher**  
[info@agingahead.org](mailto:info@agingahead.org); 636-207-4211

### AGING BEST

**Patty Wickham** - [pwickham@agingbest.org](mailto:pwickham@agingbest.org);  
**Stephanie Jumps** - [sjumps@agingbest.org](mailto:sjumps@agingbest.org);  
573-443-5823

### AGING MATTERS

**Jackie Dover** - [jdover@agingmatters2u.com](mailto:jdover@agingmatters2u.com);  
**Cindy Huey** - [cindyh@agingmatters2u.com](mailto:cindyh@agingmatters2u.com)  
573-335-3331

### CARE CONNECTION

**Christina Kanak**  
[ckanak@goaging.org](mailto:ckanak@goaging.org); 660-747-3107

### MARC

**Lauren Schaumburg**  
[lschaumburg@marc.org](mailto:lschaumburg@marc.org); 816-701-8304

### NORTHEAST

**Debbie Blessing**  
[debbie@nemoaaa.com](mailto:debbie@nemoaaa.com); 660-665-4682

### REGION X

**Sarah Tippit** - [stippit@aaaregionx.org](mailto:stippit@aaaregionx.org);  
**Charlotte Foust** - [cfoust@aaaregionx.org](mailto:cfoust@aaaregionx.org);  
417-781-7562

### ST. LOUIS AREA AGENCY ON AGING

**Shelia Bassoppo-Moyo**  
[bassoppo-moyos@stlouis-mo.gov](mailto:bassoppo-moyos@stlouis-mo.gov);  
314-657-1613

### SENIORAGE

**Hanna Scott**  
[hannah.scott@senioragemo.org](mailto:hannah.scott@senioragemo.org); 417-868-9522

### YOUNG AT HEART RESOURCES

**Penny Crawford**  
[pcrawford@yahresources.org](mailto:pcrawford@yahresources.org); 660-240-9400

### STATEWIDE

**Kayla Curry**  
[kayla.curry@health.mo.gov](mailto:kayla.curry@health.mo.gov); 573-522-6517

## MO Silver Haired Legislative Board

### President & Senate President Pro-Tem -

**John Kramer**; Bonne Terre; 573-760-3706;  
[ucjkramer@aol.com](mailto:ucjkramer@aol.com)

### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President & House Speaker -

**Patricia Bowers**; Robertsville; 314-807-9557;  
[pabowers321@gmail.com](mailto:pabowers321@gmail.com)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President & House Majority Leader -

**Janet Baker**; Kansas City; 816-878-3362;  
[janet@kcshepherdcenter.org](mailto:janet@kcshepherdcenter.org)

### Secretary & Senate Minority Leader -

**Peggy Don Yates**; Marshfield; 417-230-5200;  
[peggy\\_don\\_yates@msn.com](mailto:peggy_don_yates@msn.com)

### Treasurer & Aging Ahead Chair - Thomas Eyssell;

Chesterfield; 636-346-9442; [eyssellt@umsl.edu](mailto:eyssellt@umsl.edu)

### Immediate Past President & Region X Chair -

**Barb Ittner**; Anderson; 417-214-7603;  
[bjittner454@gmail.com](mailto:bjittner454@gmail.com)

### Senate Majority Leader - John Walker;

Springfield; 417-773-7340;  
[JohnNWalker@hotmail.com](mailto:JohnNWalker@hotmail.com)

### Speaker Pro-Tem of the House -

**Victor DaMommio**; Springfield; 417-370-1117;  
[vdavis8735@gmail.com](mailto:vdavis8735@gmail.com)

### House Minority Leader - Mary Kramer; Bonne

Terre; 573-760-3706; [jandmkramer@outlook.com](mailto:jandmkramer@outlook.com)

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### Aging Best Chair - Francie Rohrer;

Bourbon; 636-432-9198; [rohrar321@gmail.com](mailto:rohrar321@gmail.com)

### Care Connection Chair - William "Bill" Platt;

Nevada; 417-549-0708;  
[wmeplatt@outlook.com](mailto:wmeplatt@outlook.com)

### MARC Chair - Margaret Turner; Kansas City;

816-941-3744; [margturn7@yahoo.com](mailto:margturn7@yahoo.com)

### Northeast Chair - Andy Jackson; LaPlata;

660-349-0988; [andyjack@marktwain.net](mailto:andyjack@marktwain.net)

### SeniorAge Chair (Acting) - Zoli Vajda;

Buffalo; 719-232-5657; [zolitv@aol.com](mailto:zolitv@aol.com)

### St. Louis AAA Chair - Barbara Grady; St. Louis;

314-498-6788; [gradyking1231@gmail.com](mailto:gradyking1231@gmail.com)

### Young at Heart Resources Chair - John Herndon;

Marceline; 660-375-5083;  
[johnniedherndon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:johnniedherndon@sbcglobal.net)



# 2025

## Missouri Silver Haired Legislature

Priorities, Issues and Officers



### Missouri Silver Haired Legislature (SHL) History/Facts:

Created in 1973, Missouri's SHL has the distinction of being the first such organization in the United States.

- The SHL is composed of citizens, age 60 or older, who volunteer their time to advocate on behalf of Missouri's older adults.
- The delegates are elected from each of Missouri's 10 Area Agencies on Aging. Each delegation consists of 12 representatives and three senators for a total of 150 legislators.
- All legislators meet annually for a model legislative session at the State Capitol. They debate and vote on their top five priority proposals.
- Once the five priorities are chosen, the legislators return to their districts to encourage support of those issues. They testify before the Missouri Senate and House and speak with senior groups regarding those issues.

### SHL Top Five Priorities for 2025

- Improve the Missouri Property Tax Credit a.k.a. Circuit Breaker and add annual indexing.
- Increase the Personal Needs Allowance and add annual indexing.
- Increase Excise Tax on tobacco products to benefit AAA transportation fund.
- Raise the Aged and Disabled Waiver from 85% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 133% of the FPL, as it is for MO HealthNet Expansion.
- Increase Medicaid Asset Level.

### SHL Will Also Support Legislative Action for the Following Issues:

- Increased accessibility to public buildings for individuals with disabilities.
- Rate increase on Medicaid Home-Delivered Meals.
- Increased oversight and accountability for nursing home inspections.
- Require 24/7 staffing of the DHSS Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline.
- Increase funding for the MO Rx program to include all eligible Medicare beneficiaries.
- Foot care funding.
- Increase funding of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.
- Increase funding for the current Hearing Aid Distribution Program for non-Medicaid eligible individuals.
- Hearing aid and cochlear implants for eligible Mo HealthNet individuals.
- Real property tax exemption for 100% disabled veterans.
- Tax incentive for volunteer drivers for qualified organizations.



### Proposals Passed into Law

Over the years, SHL has grown in visibility and esteem. It has advocated for many proposals that are now state law, such as:

- Senior Services Growth and Development Program.
- Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program.
- Asset Limit Increase for MO HealthNet eligibility.
- Exploitation of the elderly and elder abuse laws.
- Permanent funding for CLAIM.
- Creation of the MO Senior Rx Program.
- Seniors Savings Protection Act.



[Health.Mo.Gov/silverhaired](https://Health.Mo.Gov/silverhaired)

The Silver Haired Legislature works in coordination with the Area Agencies on Aging and the Department of Health and Senior Services, Division of Senior and Disability Services.

Interested in issues impacting older Missourians?  
Become a subscriber to the SHL newsletter and stay up to date on legislation that may directly affect you and your loved ones:  
[agingahead.org/missouri-shl](https://agingahead.org/missouri-shl).