

Christine Burke, MEA Benefits Trust Executive Director, is retiring on June 30th. A nurse, lobbyist, and lawyer, Chris has led the Trust for ten years in fulfilling its mission to provide our members with the highest level of healthcare at a competitive cost. Her vision of expanded health offerings for our members has resulted in many new programs including a multi-faceted wellness program. She is responsible for instituting the 24/7 Nurse Line, Member Assistance program, Condition Care program, and Future Moms program.

Chris has been a voice for plan participants and a leader and member of several influential health groups in Maine. As chair of the Maine Health Management Coalition, she strove to improve the delivery of healthcare and benefits in Maine at an affordable price. The Trust has become a leader in the health care delivery in Maine due to Chris's leadership in the Maine Health Management Coalition. Through her tireless advocacy and her testimony down in Washington and here in Maine, Chris has protected the best interests of the Trust and its members. The Trustees wish to thank Chris for her years of hard work and dedication in providing quality health insurance for our members. Her support and advice to the Board has enabled the Trustees to make informed decisions and to position the Trust to continue to support programs that engage our members. We wish Chris a happy retirement.

The Trustees are pleased to announce that they have selected **Jennifer Kent** of Windham as the new Executive Director of the MEA Benefits Trust. Jenn comes to the Trust from Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield of Maine, where she has 23 years of experience in the health insurance industry. She has a deep understanding of the mission of the Trust and the Trust's various plans and programs. Jenn has a vision of how to meet the challenge of providing the members with high quality health care at a competitive cost as the Trust charts its future in the ever-changing health care landscape. Please join the Trustees and staff in welcoming Jenn as she assumes her duties as Executive Director on July 10th.

David Wakelin, long-time attorney for the MEA Benefits Trust, is stepping down as lead counsel for the Trust after twenty-four years of service. David was instrumental in establishing the Trust in 1993. He drafted the Trust document that continues to govern the Trust to this day. Since the Trust's inception, David has been dedicated to protecting the best interests of the Trust and its members. In addition to protecting and defending the Trust and its members on the state and federal levels, he has been the lead negotiator of the Trust's health insurance contracts over the years, always with the focus that the Trust members receive high quality healthcare benefits at a reasonable cost. His good counsel guided Trustees over the many years to provide quality health benefits for our members.

David is not fully retiring from his law practice; his institutional knowledge will remain available to the Trust and to Anne O'Donovan, who will take David's place as lead counsel. Anne has worked with David for over twenty-five years. She has consulted with him on Trust matters and has become more involved in recent years in preparation for David's transition to a reduced work schedule. The Trustees and staff wish David the best in all his future endeavors, while we welcome Anne to her new role as lead council.

Trustees **MaryKay Dyer** and **Sally Plourde** terms of office end in June. They have been instrumental in recognizing the challenges of providing medical benefits and programs for our members at an affordable cost. Their experiences as educators and their involvement in their local associations provided guidance for the Trustees when discussing items that had an impact on our members. Sally and MaryKay embraced the educational trainings offered to Trustees and used this knowledge to advance the long-term goals of the Trust. The Trustees and staff thank Sally and MaryKay for their years of service to the MEA Benefits Trust.