



Conference Mini-Guide MCOA FALL CONFERENCE 2026

WEDNESDAY KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Sheri-ann McLean-Williams

Welcome and Keynote | Wednesday 9-10:15am | Prism Auditorium



Focused on What Matters

SUPPORTING OUR OLDER ADULTS

Welcome to Southbridge!

We're delighted to bring together the people, ideas, and partnerships that make Massachusetts communities stronger for older adults. Over the next three days, we hope you'll learn something new, reconnect with colleagues, celebrate one another, and leave inspired by the difference you make every day.

Thank you for being an essential part of what matters.

With appreciation, the MCOA Team • October 21–23, 2026

2026 MCOA FALL CONFERENCE

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE • OCTOBER 21–23 • WELLSWORTH HOTEL, SOUTHBRIDGE



TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
TUESDAY • OCTOBER 20		
3–6 PM	Check-in	Foyer
WEDNESDAY • OCTOBER 21		
7:30–9 AM	Breakfast	Visions Restaurant
7:30 AM–5 PM	Check-in & Resolution Desk	Foyer
8 AM–5 PM	Exhibitors Hall	Salon AB / Foyer
9–10:15 AM	Welcome and Keynote	Prism Auditorium
10:15–10:45 AM	Break	Foyer
10:45 AM–12 PM	Workshop / Peer Session I	See workshop schedule
12–1 PM	Luncheon	Visions Restaurant
1:15–2:30 PM	Workshop / Peer Session II	See workshop schedule
2:30–3 PM	Break	Foyer
3–4:15 PM	Workshop / Peer Session III	See workshop schedule
4:30–5 PM	Annual Meeting	Prism Auditorium
6–9 PM	Evening Networking/Dinner	Visions Restaurant
THURSDAY • OCTOBER 22		
7:30–9 AM	Breakfast	Visions Restaurant
7:30 AM–5 PM	Check-in & Resolution Desk	Foyer
8 AM–5 PM	Exhibitors Hall	AB Salon / Foyer
9–10:15 AM	Workshop / Peer Session I	See workshop schedule
10:15–10:45 AM	Break	Foyer
10:45 AM–12 PM	Workshop / Peer Session II	See workshop schedule
12–1 PM	Luncheon	Visions Restaurant
1–2:30 PM	General Session	Prism Auditorium
2:30–3 PM	Break	Foyer
3–4:15 PM	Workshop / Peer Session III	See workshop schedule
6–9 PM	Evening Networking/Dinner	Visions Restaurant
FRIDAY • OCTOBER 23		
7:30–9 AM	Breakfast	Visions Restaurant
7:30–10 AM	Check-in & Resolution Desk	Foyer
9–10:15 AM	Workshop Session I	See workshop schedule
10:30–11:45 AM	Workshop Session II	See workshop schedule
12–1 PM	Luncheon	Visions Restaurant



FOR WORKSHOP ROOMS, SURVEYS & LIVE UPDATES: USE THE MCOA CONFERENCE APP

The app has the most up-to-date conference information.

General Session Highlights

Special Remarks

- Robin Lipson, Secretary of Aging & Independence

MCOA Certifications

Recognizing achievement in professional development:

Director

- Janice Fitzgerald, Brockton
- Julie Groom, Harwich
- Alicia Johnson, Cambridge
- Laurie Keefe, Millbury
- Eric Poulin, Rochester
- Kristen Spence, Stoneham
- LaTanya Steele, Needham
- Lisa Thornton, Hull

Assistant Director

- Lauren Conrad, Brockton
- Lisa Rosen, Harvard
- Angela Sinnott, Duxbury

Program Manager

- Christine Coakley, Duxbury
- Julianne Fitzgerald, Millbury
- Christina Long, Brockton
- Sandy Mahoney, Beverly
- Anne McDonough, Tisbury
- Josh Ryan, Millbury
- Laura Stewart, Nantucket
- Elissa Wyllie, Duxbury

Award Presentations

1st Annual Photography Contest Winners

David P. Stevens Advocate of the Year Award - Patricia Baker, MLRI

Innovation of the Year Award – Ashland Council on Aging

Director of the Year Award – Michelle Kelleher, Lexington Senior Services

Special Remarks

- John Jovan, Southbridge Town Administrator

New England Farmers Buffet & Murder Mystery | Wednesday 6-9pm | Visions Restaurant

Murder at the Hotel Paradiso!

Paris, 1900. A glamorous evening. A deadly explosion. 💣

Chocolate magnate Billy Bonka is dead, and everyone is a suspect! Follow the clues, uncover the secrets, and solve the crime before the night is over. Murder is on the menu. Can you crack the case? 🕵️

Pizza Party Buffet & Game Night! | 6-9 pm Thursday | Visions Restaurant

Come for dinner and stay for a fast-paced, laugh-filled game that will have you answering questions about yourself, getting to know your peers a little better, and discovering some fun things you may not have known about your colleagues! Expect plenty of laughs, a little friendly competition, and great prizes up for grabs! It's the perfect way to wind down the day and enjoy some time together outside of the conference sessions.

Rise & Revitalize: Morning Run/Walk & Autumn Stretch | Thurs. & Fri. 6:30-7:30am | Meet @ Lobby

Start your day with a refreshing 30–40 minute run or 45-minute walk through scenic Southbridge with Terri Graham, Lisa Loo, and Josie Dutil from Bellingham. Enjoy crisp fall air, beautiful foliage, and great company before wrapping up with a group stretch and guided meditation.

All fitness levels welcome—just lace up and join us!

Thank you Sponsors

Platinum



MASSACHUSETTS

Gold



Bronze

Silver



Advocates, At Home Hearing Healthcare, Atlantic Hill Nursing and Wellness, AudioNova Hearing, CareDenza, Careforth, Central Boston Elder Services, EA Financial Solutions, LPi Communities, Oasis Senior Advisors, Planned Lifetime Assistance Network of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, Inc.

Visit Our Exhibitors

- 50+ Job Seekers
- Abigail by Gail
- Amramp
- Assisted Living Locators
- Bankers Life – For the Life of Your Retirement
- Brooklyn Kitchen
- Carroll Center for the Blind
- Center for EcoTechnology
- Charles River Boat Company
- City of Quincy Tourism/Discover Quincy
- Funeral Consumers Alliance of Western MA
- Game Shows to Go
- Heart to Home Meals
- Hebrew SeniorLife
- Home Instead
- Josie's Village, Inc.
- Lifeline Systems, Inc.
- Mass Cultural Council
- Mass. Chap. Natl. Academy of Elder Law Attys.
- MassCor
- MassPACE Association
- Massachusetts Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at Mass General Brigham
- Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership
- Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Rail and Transit Division
- Massachusetts Senior Games
- MedScope
- Next Day Access
- Oakley Home Access
- OZZI
- Plimoth Patuxet Museums
- REquipment, Inc.
- Secretary of the Commonwealth of MA
- Senior Care Authority
- Senior Medicare Patrol (AgeSpan)
- UMass Amherst
- UMass Boston Gerontology
- Wheels for the World
- White Mountain Hotel & Resort

Special Thanks to Our State Partner

MCOA extends our sincere appreciation to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Aging & Independence for its generous support of the 2026 Fall Conference. Their continued partnership and commitment to strengthening Councils on Aging help make valuable professional development, collaboration, and learning opportunities possible for those serving older adults and caregivers across the Commonwealth.

