



M.O.S.E.S. MONITOR

October 2014

INCREASED HEALTH AND WELFARE BENEFITS

In the near future, you should receive your 2014 Health and Welfare Reimbursement Form and an eight page document that outlines your three dental choices for 2015. If you are happy with your present dental plan, you do not need to do anything. However, if you want to change plans, please return the form on page two of the eight page document by December 12, 2014. If you have not received your reimbursement form or the eight page document by November 14, 2014, please call MOSES Office Administrator Janet Vitiello at 617-367-2727 x 317.

Your choice as to which plan is best for you during 2015 may be difficult as we have made improvements in all plans.

In the open plan, we have improved the dental/optical reimbursement formula from the 2013 rate of 90% of the first \$1,500 and 40% of the next \$2,000 to a 2014 rate of **90% of the first \$2,000 and 40% of the next \$1,500**. For people with large bills, this represents an increase of \$250. We have increased the optical amount we will participate in and added a new benefit that will reimburse up to \$250 in GIC hearing aid co-payments. Please be aware that the open plan only covers unmarried dependent children to age 19 unless they are students in which case they are covered until age 24.

In our two closed plans (Altus Dental and DeltaCare), we have made improvements and lowered the co-insurance costs for those who choose these plans. Under Altus, during 2015, we now allow coverage of dependents to age 26 regardless of student status similar to previously existing DeltaCare coverage. If covering older dependents is important to you, you may want to limit your choice to these two dental plans. We have also lowered the 2015 co-insurance costs for these two plans by \$1.00/week for individual coverage and \$2.00/week for family coverage. The new co-insurance costs for 2015 will be: **DeltaCare** (\$2.00/week for individual; \$8.00/week for family) **Altus Dental** (\$4.00/week for individual; \$11.00/week for one +one; \$13.00/week for 3 or more). Under the two closed dental plans we have also increased the optical amount we will reimburse at 50% and you are also eligible for the new benefit that will reimburse up to \$250 in GIC hearing aid co-payments.

During 2015, all MOSES represented State/MWRA employees and COBRA retirees will continue with the \$5,000 death coverage we first established in 2014.

President's Message

Dear MOSES member,

As we go to press the Commonwealth and MassDOT contracts have been authorized by both the House and Senate in a supplemental budget that closes the books on the FY14 fiscal year. However, because there are differences between both bills, due to other items (non-contract related) the House and Senate must form a conference committee to resolve the outstanding issues. We expect these concerns to be resolved soon. Until those issues are resolved we will have to wait for our contracts to become effective.

The upcoming elections for statewide office have earned the following endorsements from the MOSES Board of Directors: Attorney General Martha Coakley for Governor, Steve Kerrigan for Lt. Governor, Deb Goldberg for Treasurer and Maura Healey for Attorney General. The Board has also endorsed Niki Tsongas, Seth Moulton, and Bill Keating for Congress and Ed Markey for U.S. Senate. A complete list of endorsed candidates can be found in this Monitor. There are also important ballot questions this year to be voted on. The MOSES Board of Directors is supporting a "No" on Question 1. This bill could impact members from MassDOT and DCR if the gas tax indexing is repealed. The Board of Directors is also in favor of Question 2, the expansion of the bottle bill. The expansion of the bottle bill will provide funding to environmental agencies, where many MOSES members are employed.

You should all be receiving your Health and Welfare Reimbursement forms shortly. If you are going to be making any changes to your plans you must do so by December 12, 2014.

The Recreation Committee in conjunction with the Budget Committee has decided to try something different this year, having one holiday bash at night in the Framingham area. The party will take place on December 12, 2014 at the Sheraton Tara Hotel in Framingham. The cost per member is \$10.00 and one invited guest will be \$20.00. Come celebrate the holiday season with your fellow MOSES members. Watch for additional information via Constant Contact emails.

The November meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12, 2014. Please note that this is a Wednesday meeting due to the Veteran's Day Holiday observance on Tuesday. The meeting will be at the Wyckoff Country Club in Holyoke. Hope to see you at the meeting.

Joe

MOSES Announces Unit E Vacation Buy Back Pilot Program

In the recently ratified collective bargaining agreement with MassDOT and the Coalition of MassDOT Unions-Unit E, a "\$350,000 Vacation Buy Back Pilot Program" has been established that will allow a limited number of full-time employees to "buy back" up to three (3) unused vacation days this year. Eligible employees must meet each of the following criteria:

- Sick leave usage of ten (10) or fewer days in calendar year 2014 not including approved FMLA;
- Accrue vacation at a minimum rate of fifteen (15) days per year as of July 1, 2014;
- Carried over a minimum balance of five (5) days of unused accrued vacation time as of January 1, 2014.

If the cost for those who wish to participate exceeds \$350,000, selection among eligible employees will be by random lottery and requests will be granted until the funds are exhausted. Vacation days will be cashed out based on the employee's base daily wage rate as of November 1, 2014.

MOSES recently mailed letters along with a "Pilot Vacation Buy Back Form" to a list of eligible members as designated by MassDOT HR. If you believe you meet the eligibility criteria above and did not receive a letter in the mail by October 24, 2014, please contact the MOSES office and speak with Janet Vitiello or Greg Ringdahl to request a Vacation Buy Back Form. Application forms must be received in the MOSES office no later than **November 7, 2014**.

Auto and Home Insurance Benefit Now Available from Liberty Mutual

By: Dennis Goebel, Vice President, Liberty Mutual Insurance Company

As a member of M.O.S.E.S., you could receive exclusive savings on your auto and home insurance. Plus, with Liberty Mutual, you get service and support when and where you need it, and the latest tips and tools to help keep you and your family safe.

Exclusive Savings on Auto and Home Insurance

Because you are part of a group that has partnered with Liberty Mutual to offer you our auto and home insurance benefit program, you could save hundreds of dollars on our quality, comprehensive auto and home insurance. Here's how:

- You are eligible to receive exclusive group savings on our already competitive rates.
- You could save even more on your home insurance when you insure both your car and home with us.
- You could get additional discounts based on your driving experience, car and home safety features, and more.

To the extent permitted by law, applicants are individually underwritten, and not all applicants may qualify.

Service and Support When and Where You Need It

Whether you have an accident, need to file a claim, or have routine business, Liberty Mutual offers flexible, convenient service and support:

- 24/7 claims assistance, fast appraisals, and after-hours policy services
- Convenient support by phone, online, or one-on-one with a local sales representative
- Your choice of payment options, including payroll deduction, electronic withdrawal, or direct billing

Need additional coverage?

In addition to auto and home insurance, Liberty Mutual offers life, motorcycle, condo, renters and personal liability insurance. Our sales representatives will explain your options in clear terms and recommend the coverage that best suits your needs.

To learn more about Liberty Mutual insurance or get a free, no-obligation quote, call Gary Kelly at (781) 861-8750 Ext. 50339 or visit www.LibertyMutual.com/moses.

Gary Kelly will be at the general membership meetings in November and December

MOSES ENDORSED CANDIDATES

2014 GENERAL ELECTION TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4TH

Senator in Congress: EDWARD J. MARKEY, D

Representative in Congress:

**THIRD DISTRICT: NIKI TSONGAS, D; SIXTH DISTRICT: SETH MOULTON, D
NINTH DISTRICT: WILLIAM KEATING, D**

**Governor/Lieutenant Governor COAKLEY/KERRIGAN, D Attorney General MAURA HEALEY, D
Secretary of State WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN, D; Treasurer DEBORAH B. GOLDBERG, D
Auditor SUZANNE M. BUMP, D**

Senator in General Court

FIRST BRISTOL & PLYMOUTH DISTRICT
MICHAEL J. RODRIGUES, D

SECOND BRISTOL & PLYMOUTH DISTRICT
MARK C. MONTIGNY, D

CAPE & ISLANDS DISTRICT
DANIEL A. WOLF, D

FIRST ESSEX DISTRICT
KATHLEEN A. O'CONNOR IVES, D

SECOND ESSEX & MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
BARBARA A. L'ITALIEN, D

FIRST HAMPDEN & HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT
ERIC PHILIP LESSER, D

SECOND HAMPDEN & HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT
PATRICK T. LEAHY, D

SECOND MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
PATRICIA D. JEHLIN, D

THIRD MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
MICHAEL J. BARRETT, D

FIFTH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
JASON M. LEWIS, D

NORFOLK, BRISTOL & MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
DYLAN HAYRE, D

NORFOLK & PLYMOUTH DISTRICT
JOHN F. KEENAN, D

PLYMOUTH & BARNSTABLE DISTRICT
MATTHEW C. PATRICK, D

FIRST PLYMOUTH & BRISTOL DISTRICT
MARC R. PACHECO, D

SECOND PLYMOUTH & BRISTOL DISTRICT
THOMAS P. KENNEDY, D

FIRST SUFFOLK DISTRICT
LINDA DORCENA FERRY, D

SECOND SUFFOLK DISTRICT
SONIA ROSA CHANG-DÍAZ, D

FIRST WORCESTER DISTRICT
HARRIETTE L. CHANDLER, D

WORCESTER, HAMPDEN, HAMPSHIRE & MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
ANNE M. GOBI, D

WORCESTER & MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
JENNIFER L. FLANAGAN, D

WORCESTER & NORFOLK DISTRICT
RICHARD T. MOORE, D

Representative in General Court

SECOND BARNSTABLE DISTRICT
BRIAN R. MANNAL, D

THIRD BARNSTABLE DISTRICT
DAVID T. VIEIRA, R

FIFTH BARNSTABLE DISTRICT
MATTHEW M. TERRY, D

SECOND BRISTOL DISTRICT
PAUL R. HEROUX, D

THIRD BRISTOL DISTRICT
KEAVIN DUFFY, D

SIXTH BRISTOL DISTRICT
CAROLE A. FIOLA, D

NINTH BRISTOL DISTRICT
CHRISTOPHER MARKEY, D

TENTH BRISTOL DISTRICT
WILLIAM M. STRAUS, D

FIRST ESSEX
ARI B. HERZOG, I

FIFTH ESSEX DISTRICT
ANN-MARGARET FERRANTE, D

SIXTH ESSEX DISTRICT
JERALD A. PARISSELLA, D

NINTH ESSEX DISTRICT
CHRISTOPHER J. FINN, D

TWELFTH ESSEX DISTRICT
BEVERLEY A. GRIFFIN DUNNE, D

THIRTEENTH ESSEX DISTRICT
THEODORE C. SPELIOTIS, D

FOURTEENTH ESSEX DISTRICT
DIANA Di ZOGLIO, D

FIFTEENTH ESSEX DISTRICT
LINDA DEAN CAMPBELL, D

SIXTEENTH ESSEX DISTRICT
MARCOS A. DEVERS, D

FIRST FRANKLIN DISTRICT
STEPHEN KULIK, D

SECOND FRANKLIN DISTRICT
DENISE ANDREWS, D

FOURTH HAMPDEN DISTRICT
JOHN C. VELIS, D

SIXTH HAMPDEN DISTRICT
MICHAEL J. FINN, D

NINTH HAMPDEN DISTRICT
JOSE F. TOSADO, D

TWELFTH HAMPDEN DISTRICT
ANGELO J. PUPPOLO, D

THIRD HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT
ELLEN STORY, D

FIRST MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
GENE A. RAUHALA, D

SECOND MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
JAMES ARCIERO, D

THIRD MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
KATE HOGAN, D

FOURTH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
DANIELLE W. GREGOIRE, D

FIFTH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
DAVID PAUL LINSKY, D

SIXTH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
CHRIS WALSH, D

NINTH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
THOMAS M. STANLEY, D

FOURTEENTH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
CORY ATKINS, D

EIGHTEENTH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
RADY MOM, D

NINETEENTH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
JAMES R. MICELI, D

TWENTY-FIRST MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
KENNETH I. GORDON, D

TWENTY-THIRD MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
SEAN GARBALLEY, D

TWENTY-SIXTH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
TIMOTHY J. TOOMEY, D

TWENTY-SEVENTH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
DENISE PROVOST, D

THIRTY-FIRST MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
MICHAEL SEAMUS DAY, D

THIRTY-SECOND MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
PAUL BRODEUR, D

THIRTY-THIRD MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
STEVEN ULTRINO, D

THIRTY-FOURTH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
CHRISTINE P. BARBER, D

THIRD NORFOLK DISTRICT
RONALD MARIANO, D

FOURTH NORFOLK DISTRICT
JAMES MICHAEL MURPHY, D

TWELFTH NORFOLK DISTRICT
JOHN H. ROGERS, D

FIFTEENTH NORFOLK DISTRICT
FRANK ISRAEL SMIZIK, D

FOURTH PLYMOUTH DISTRICT
JAMES M. CANTWELL, D

FIFTH PLYMOUTH DISTRICT
RHONDA L. NYMAN, D

SIXTH PLYMOUTH DISTRICT
JOSH S. CUTLER, D

EIGHTH PLYMOUTH DISTRICT
JOSEPH R. PACHECO, D

TENTH PLYMOUTH DISTRICT
MICHELLE M. DUBOIS, D

FIRST SUFFOLK DISTRICT
CARLO BASILE, D

FIFTH SUFFOLK DISTRICT
EVANDRO C. CARVALHO, D

NINETEENTH SUFFOLK DISTRICT
ROBERT A. DeLEO, D

SECOND WORCESTER DISTRICT
JONATHAN D. ZLOTNIK, D

FOURTH WORCESTER DISTRICT
DENNIS A. ROSA, D

TENTH WORCESTER DISTRICT
JOHN V. FERNANDES, D

ELEVENTH WORCESTER DISTRICT
MATTHEW A. BEATON, R

TWELFTH WORCESTER DISTRICT
HAROLD P. NAUGHTON, JR., D

THIRTEENTH WORCESTER DISTRICT
JOHN J. MAHONEY, D

SEVENTEENTH WORCESTER DISTRICT
DOUGLAS A. BELANGER, D

EIGHTEENTH WORCESTER DISTRICT
MARK G. DOWGIEWICZ, D

MOSES' POSITION ON BALLOT QUESTIONS
THE MOSES BOARD OF DIRECTORS VOTED TO TAKE A STAND ON TWO BALLOT
QUESTIONS THAT MAY DIRECTLY IMPACT OUR MEMBERS

VOTE NO ON QUESTION 1 WHICH ELIMINATES GAS TAX INDEXING

MOSES is joining with the **COMMITTEE ON SAFER ROADS AND BRIDGES**, a group of over 50 business groups, environmental and health consortiums, planning commissions, highway associations, good government, engineering and construction interests, bicycle coalitions, labor unions and elected officials to **DEFEAT QUESTION 1** to ensure Massachusetts has a reliable funding source to fix our unsafe roads and bridges.

THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION STATES, THERE ARE 5,136 BRIDGES IN MASSACHUSETTS

- 53% are either structurally deficient or functionally obsolete
- 487 are considered structurally deficient
- 2,207 are considered functionally obsolete

MASSACHUSETTS RANKS SECOND-WORST ACROSS ALL STATES - After decades of neglect, the condition of our bridges is a significant public safety issue leaving us exposed to the threat of failing bridges. MassDOT jobs are a direct link to the taxes on gasoline which brings millions of dollars into the system resulting in new jobs. Existing laws require that gas tax dollars can only be spent on transportation projects.

QUESTION ONE ELIMINATES GAS TAX INDEXING - and threatens to make the problem even worse by taking away existing transportation funds jeopardizing \$1 billion in transportation projects and repealing the current law which adjusts the tax every year by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index. Without the stability of a secure source of funding the tax becomes a political football as we have witnessed on a federal level where the once reliable Federal Highway Trust Fund has been depleted to its lowest level since its inception. **States must take up the slack.**

QUESTION ONE THREATENS THE SAFETY - of you and your families when travelling on our roads and bridges. More than 27 unsafe bridges have been closed causing huge inconveniences for citizens, not to mention the estimated \$2.3 billion a year in car repairs. **All of us can relate to that.**

A NO VOTE SENDS A CLEAR MESSAGE: MOSES members are against crumbling roads and bridges which are not only a risk to drivers and their families, but also **MOSES' highway workers at MassDOT and DCR, as well as our environmental and occupational health & safety workers who must be protected when inspecting these unsafe workplaces.**

VOTE YES ON QUESTION 2 EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER DEPOSIT LAW

Opponents of this Question have been taken to task by proponents and the *BOSTON GLOBE* for untrue claims in their \$8 million advertising campaign unfairly confusing voters. This well-heeled ad campaign sponsored by grocery store conglomerates and the beverage industry has unfortunately been very successful in totally flipping voter opinion.

A poll taken in August, reported that 62% would vote YES, the poll taken in September after the TV ads now show 60% opposing the question. The ad campaign has been successful, hopefully the truth will prevail.

According to the *GLOBE* article "Data belie claims by foes of a wider bottle bill" (October 4, 2014) and based on numbers provided by the Department of Environmental Protection, (DEP), claims in the ad are not true. The ad claims 90% of households have curbside pick-up. In reality only 47% of households have this service. In

addition, the ad claims that “politicians get to keep” all the nickels and dimes that pile up if consumers don’t redeem their deposits. Currently, the money does go to the general fund, but if the question passes, the deposit money will, by law, go to Environmental Programs that directly impact MOSES members and the ability of agencies to hire desperately needed workers.

According to MassDEP, “...non-deposit bottles outnumber deposit bottles by three to one in the litter found in our public parks, even though they are only 40% of the market.”

The ads claim that the state can “automatically increase the deposits,” is also misleading. The Globe article states, “... the secretary of [the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs] will review fees every five years and make appropriate adjustments to reflect changes in the consumer price index as well as changes in the costs incurred by redemption center.” No automatic increases will occur.

Lastly, according to MassDEP, there are no statistics to support the ads claim that the cost of these beverages, water, teas, juices, will increase. A 2011 MassDEP study shows “remarkably consistent beverage pricing for both deposit and non-deposit beverages across the states.” “There appears to be no evidence to support claims that updating the Massachusetts [bottle law] will result in increased costs or reduced choices.”

“A YES vote equals more recycling, less trash and litter, and big savings for town’s waste management costs. That is why this idea has been endorsed by 209 of our cities and towns and political leaders from both parties.

MOSES ENDORSES MARTHA COAKLEY FOR GOVERNOR

The MOSES Board of Directors voted to endorse Martha Coakley for Governor. Martha attended an Executive Board meeting and answered pointed questions on issues MOSES members care about, including pensions, healthcare, collective bargaining and privatization of our jobs.

Coakley was very receptive to working with us relative to our concerns about depleted budgets, has promised to request more funding for environmental programs, at least 1% of the total budget. She was very interested and wanted more information about the grave concerns our members articulated about the outsourcing of engineering work on the state’s highways and bridges, as well as the high costs that come with privatization, compared to MOSES engineers performing the job.

Martha Coakley has worked tirelessly as head of the Environmental Crime Strike Force, an interagency team which investigates criminal violations that are referred by MassDEP and other agencies. As Attorney General, she has pursued polluters, levied hundreds of millions of dollars in fines, required remediation and has sent some violators to jail.

We know Martha, and we know her door will be open to us; that is half the battle in our ability to work for MOSES members to implement change, draw attention to our concerns and protect your pension and healthcare benefits as they continue to be under attack. She is a quick study and a problem solver.

Having worked most of her life in public service she is not into dismantling agencies and programs, nor hell bent on privatization. She gets that government work is a worthy career and there are certain jobs that should only be done by those working for the taxpayers every day with no profit motive.

YOUR VOTE FOR MARTHA COAKLEY ON NOVEMBER 4TH WILL HELP MOSES WORK BETTER FOR YOU ON THESE IMPORTANT ISSUES, VOTE YOUR OWN SELF-INTEREST. THIS IS A VOTE THAT WILL DIRECTLY IMPACT YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES.

MOSES MONITOR
90 North Washington Street
Boston, MA 02114

MOSES ELECTION UPDATE FROM THE ELECTION COMMITTEE

Nominations for Officers, Board of Director members and Trustees were taken at the October General Membership meeting. Ballots and Biographical statements will be mailed on October 28, 2014. If you have not received your ballot by November 3, 2014, please call True Ballot at (866) 620-4940. All ballots must be received at the Woburn post office no later than 9:00 AM on November 18, 2014.

The November 12, 2014 Membership meeting will be held at The Wyckoff Country Club, 233

Easthampton Rd, Holyoke, MA 01040. Tel. (413) 536-3602 **Directions:** **From the South:** Travel North on I-91. Take Exit 17B to Route 141 West. The Club is one mile on the right. **From the North:** Travel South on I-91 and take Exit 17 to Route 141 West. (Going toward Easthampton). The Club is a half mile on the right. **From the Mass Pike:** Take Exit 4 to I-91 north. From I-91, take Exit 17B to Route 141 West. The Club is two miles on the right. **PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A WEDNESDAY MEETING**

The December 9, 2014 Membership meeting will be held at The Common Market Restaurant, Willard Street, Quincy Tel. (617) 773-9532 **Directions:** **From the North:** Take I-93 South to Exit 9 (West Quincy/Bryant Ave. exit). Take 2nd left. At the 1st set of lights, The Common Market is on the corner to your left. **From the South:** Take I-93 North heading toward Boston and get off at Exit 8 (Furnace Brook Parkway exit). Enter the next roundabout and take the 1st exit onto Willard St. The Common Market is on the left 0.9 mile down on Willard Street. **From the West :** Take 128 South and then get on 93 North (heading toward Boston). Get off at exit 8 (Furnace Brook Parkway exit). Enter the next roundabout and take the 1st exit onto Willard St. The Common Market is on the left 0.9 mile down on Willard Street.