



FALL 2021

# *Highlight* NEWS

MONTGOMERY AREA COUNCIL ON AGING



**SERVING THE ONES WHO SERVED**

# A Word From

Donna Marietta  
Chief Executive Officer

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When you receive this Fall Highlight News issue, MACOA will have started a new fiscal year in October, and I will be beginning my 10th year working at MACOA. I am very proud of the work that the Board of Directors and staff have accomplished over the years, and we are always striving to improve services to the seniors we serve in the Central Alabama.

In this issue we will be focusing on the veterans we serve. Twenty-nine percent of MACOA's clients are veterans or spouses of veterans. We are proud to announce that our Meals On Wheels program is expanding.

This summer we were able to start a new Meals On Wheels route to serve 12 more clients in northern Montgomery, and we are planning to begin another new route in 2022. With Veterans Day being celebrated each year on November 11, one of MACOA's goals is to fight food insecurity among veterans. The lack of access of enough food for a healthy lifestyle is a serious concern for many seniors in our community. We know it is vital that we strive to provide more hot meals and frozen meals for homebound seniors. We are increasing our weekend frozen meals so there will be meals on the weekends for many of our clients.

Of course, when we start new routes, we must also recruit more volunteers. Over the years, the Montgomery community has responded to our call for assistance and we are sending that call out again. If you have time in the middle of your day, please consider driving a Meals On Wheels route. We need your help. Just call MACOA to find more information about volunteering to serve.

# A Word From

Andrea McCain  
Chair, Board of Directors



I would like to express my appreciation to Jason Gardner, the outgoing Chair of the MACOA board who has been an example of dedication and perseverance as our organization navigated new ways of serving seniors during a very challenging year.

Our MACOA team led by Chief Executive Officer, Donna Marietta has worked tirelessly to continue to provide meals and activities for the seniors of the River Region, while reimagining our annual fundraising initiatives to generate funding for the pursuit of our mission. Thank you to all of our donors and volunteers who generously give of their time and financial gifts. Our fundraisers, as well as the grants we receive, allow us to provide hot meals five days a week to 416 seniors, frozen meals to those on the waiting list, RSVP activities, and to operate the MACOA East Senior Center. We are excited to announce that MACOA will begin a frozen meal program in rural Elmore County to serving seniors in the Deatsville, Holtville, and Elmore communities on October 1st. This is made possible through the River Region United Way Community Impact Grant we received. We also plan to also to add another Meals on Wheels route in 2022

I am delighted to serve as the Chair of the MACOA board of directors during our 50th anniversary year. We are making plans to celebrate this monumental occasion. Thank you again for your support.

## MACOA Board of Directors 2021-2022

### Officers of the Board

Andrea McCain, Chair

Roy McAuley, Vice Chair

Willis Teel, Secretary-Treasurer

Jason Gardner, Immediate Past Chair

Zenobia Blackmon	Lewis Gillis	Paul Scott
Angela Bradwell	Anthony Leigh	Kris Stallworth
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Larry Carter	John Marshall	Sherry Weeks
Angela Crosby	Nikita McClain	Jim Weinstock
Cassandra Crosby	Lazette Moody	Sherry White
Gen. Trent Edwards	Gary Oos	Rev. Richard Williams
Robert Froese	Sheron Rose	Tammy Zhang

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Dottie Blair

Sue Groce

Sarah Spear

Barbara Duke

Pete Knight

Sieu Tang Wood

**About the cover:** Read more about The Driscoll's on page 4

# The Need for Volunteers Rolls On



*The Montgomery Area Council On Aging assists senior citizens by providing services to promote independent living, by offering opportunities to enhance quality of life, and by increasing community awareness of senior issues.*

## MACOA DIRECTORY

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Chief Operations Officer  
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[macoa.org/volunteer](http://macoa.org/volunteer)

**Did you know in just one hour YOU could make an impact in YOUR community?** The Montgomery Area Council on Aging (MACOA) Meals on Wheels program feeds 416 senior citizens in the River Region. Based on our mission statement, we have made a commitment to these individuals to promote independent living by keeping them in their own home.

MACOA currently has many dedicated **community volunteers** and Route Partners who drive a Meals on Wheels routes for us. Their dedication ensures we are able to continue our mission. We are always looking for **MORE** community volunteers and Route Partners to drive.

**Route Partners** consist of businesses, churches, organizations, etc. committed to delivering meals at least twice a month. This group shares the commitment to deliver meals and in the process are able to work together as a team with their company or organization.

MACOA currently has 35 meal delivery routes and plans to start more in the near future. Of those 35 routes, many routes are currently **NOT COVERED by a volunteer**.

There are many other **volunteer opportunities** at MACOA such as **MACOA Meal Makers** - individuals, groups, organizations, businesses, churches, etc. that help package the meals - and **Holiday Bags** - Delivering a sack of groceries for the Christmas Holidays. Visit [macoa.org/volunteer](http://macoa.org/volunteer) to view all of the Volunteer Opportunities.



If you are interested in giving back and making an **IMPACT in YOUR community**, visit [macoa.org/online-volunteer-form](http://macoa.org/online-volunteer-form) and sign up TODAY! No matter what your schedule is like, we can find a route or make room for you in our kitchen—whether you want to deliver or package meals daily, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or just occasionally.

We could not fulfill our mission without the endless **COMMITMENT** of community volunteers and Route Partners who invest their time to serve seniors.



**Meals on Wheels  
Community Volunteer  
Bessie Taylor**



**Meals on Wheels Route Partner  
ALFA Insurance**

[NOTE: MACOA is following CDC guidelines to promote a safe environment for their employees and volunteers]

# MACOA Is Proud to Serve Veterans



91-year-old Korean War veteran Lawrence (Larry) Driscoll was born in Louisville, Kentucky in 1929. Mr. Driscoll was drafted into the United States Army in August of 1952, at the age of 22. After training at the Fort Benjamin Harrison Army Finance School in Indiana, he served as a dispersing specialist in the Army Finance Corp. at Camp Kilmer. In this position, he processed payroll for discharged servicemen returning from overseas. After being discharged in 1954, Mr. Driscoll returned to Louisville where he worked as an incentive payroll specialist for Tube Turns (Now Sypris Technologies).

Mr. Driscoll met his wife, Marilyn, in Louisville before beginning his military journey. Marilyn was a student at the University of Kentucky and invited him to a derby party, a big deal in Kentucky! The couple has been married for 58 years and have 4 children and 3 grandchildren. In 1981, the Driscolls moved to Montgomery where Larry worked as a sales representative in the distillery industry.

The Driscolls have been Meals on Wheels recipients since March of 2020. They enjoy the weekday meals and love to speak with the Meals on Wheels drivers. When asked about her experience with Meals on Wheels, Mrs. Driscoll mentioned that MACOA staff and drivers are so kind and the meals really help her and her husband out throughout the week. The Driscolls also appreciate the work MACOA does to serve meals to veterans and veteran spouses.

**Fun fact:** Ms. Driscoll's family has a proud military history. Her brother-in-law, Charlie, was stationed in Korea during the beginning of the Korean War. Charlie's son is a retired Bird Colonel in the Army and Charlie's grandson is an Army Lieutenant Colonel currently working at the Pentagon in Washington D.C.!



**Lawrence Driscoll with Meals on  
Wheels Volunteer Pam Wiggins**



**Mr. Bennie Bell, Jr.** is a member of a family with four generations of veterans. Born in 1943 in Cordele, Georgia, his father moved the family to Alabama when Mr. Bennie was small. As a young man Mr. Bennie was drafted to serve in the Korean War and later he enlisted in the Vietnam War in the late 1960's. He held the position of missile launcher in both wars.

Mr. Bennie traveled around the world during his time as a serviceman in the war. His favorite memory of his travels was swimming in the Aegean Sea off the Isle of Crete. When he got out of the water his skin was white from all the salt!

Since 2007, Mr. Bennie has been a part of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). Over the years he has served at many RSVP volunteer stations, including: the Autauga Interfaith Care Center, the Autauga County Water Festival, and NABVETS (National Association of Black Veterans). He has 2,104 lifetime volunteer hours and is still going strong! Thank you, Mr. Bennie, for what you have done for our nation, and for the community you serve!

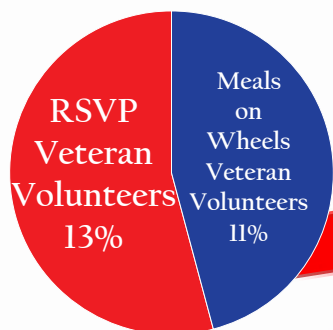
**Ellyn Hudson**, inspired by her daughter's commitment to volunteering, began delivering a Meals on Wheels route 13 years ago. Ellyn continues to volunteer with MACOA through her church.

Ellyn began her military career as a 2nd Lieutenant after graduating from Nursing School. She was 22 years old and it was the last year of the Vietnam War. Ellyn offered to serve in a stateside hospital in San Antonio, TX so more experienced nurses could be deployed to Vietnam. Ms. Hudson is currently a registered orthopedic nurse in Montgomery.

Ellyn enjoys driving as a volunteer for Meals on Wheels. Often times she wants to stay and talk at length to the clients, but she knows she has more people to serve. On one particular day, Ellyn noticed one of the clients had lots of beautiful flower and vegetable plants on her back porch. But Ellyn noticed the client did not have any Cacti – one of Ellyn's specialties. So, the next time she delivered, Ellyn brought the client her first Cacti plant. The client was so overjoyed and shouted "You are so good to me!" During the Christmas season, Ms. Hudson will wear a Santa Hat while delivering the meals. Clients tell her this puts them in the Christmas Spirit!



*"Meals on Wheels is easy to do. Helping others means you are living beyond yourself." ~ Ellyn Hudson*



# RSVP Volunteers Make a Difference at Coosa County Food Drop

RSVP volunteers are dedicated to helping their fellow citizens, especially those in need. Volunteers at the **Coosa County Food Drop** in Equality are no exception, serving monthly to help the hungry in the county.

About 20 years ago five local pastors gathered together to determine what could be done to help those that were hungry in their county. From this discussion the Coosa County Food Drop began. Now three churches oversee the Food Drop: Andrews Chapel, Rockford First Methodist, and Equality United Methodist Church.

One of the most appealing features of the Food Drop's current location is the long drive way that winds between the church and adjacent grave yard and then behind the church itself.

The day of the Food Drop, individuals and families show up bright and early to start the line of cars in the driveway behind Equality Methodist Church. This line will grow as the hours go by and the cars will wind around between the church and the adjacent graveyard. Each car is given a card to place on the windshield with a number indicating how many families are represented by that vehicle. Clients pull their cars in the driveway and slowly drive by rows of tables laden with food items, such as crackers, coffee, peanut butter, fresh fruits, potatoes, and volunteers "drop" the food into the cars. Folks can come around again and again until all the food is gone.

Before the COVID-19 Pandemic, Food Drop clients filled out applications and had to meet certain income criteria to receive food. At this time anyone who needs food can come through the Food Drop line. We are thankful for all our RSVP volunteers that help at the Food Drop, and those throughout the five counties we serve!





MACOA's 17th Annual  
**INTERNATIONAL TASTING  
 DRIVE-THRU**  
 Sunday, November 14, 2021

The **17th Annual International Tasting Drive-Thru Event** will take place Sunday, November 14, 2021 at the MACOA office with pick-up times from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Our guests will enjoy an International feast of flavors they can enjoy from the comfort of their home! **Each meal is \$50** and includes 6 dishes from different regions of the world! Dessert and Carryout Bag included.

Visit <https://www.macoa.org/international-tasting> to purchase your meal or call the MACOA office at 334-263-0532

## Seniors of Achievement

A person may nominate an individual for the class of 2021 and for the Class of 2022, but is limited to **one nomination for each year**. The Class year must be indicated on the nomination form. Each year's nominations will be considered separately from the other.

**Deadline for Class of 2021—November 15, 2021; Deadline for Class of 2022—February 25, 2022**

Visit [macoa.org/seniors-awards](http://macoa.org/seniors-awards) to fill out a Nominations Form

**\*\*\*Awards Presentation has been postponed until April 2022\*\*\***



### Check us out on Instagram!

@macoamealsonwheels

Keep up to date with all things

MACOA and Meals on Wheels now on Instagram! Follow us for content regarding upcoming events, our amazing volunteers and ways to give!



## Holiday Cards That Give Back

MACOA's Christmas and Happy Holidays cards are back - the perfect gift to help spread Season's Greetings to your family, neighbors, friends, clients, co-workers, and all the special people in your life. Send your holiday contribution to benefit MACOA and Meals On Wheels by December 10, along with the mailing information for those on your list, and we will send them a beautiful personalized card of your choice with either a *Happy Holidays* or *Merry Christmas* greeting. MACOA will let the special people on your list know you've made a donation in their honor, and you can enjoy hassle-free holiday gift-giving!

Contact Amy Dennis, Development Coordinator, 334-263-0532  
[adennis@macoa.org](mailto:adennis@macoa.org) to learn more.



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Monday - Thursday 8:00 am-4:30 pm  
Friday 8:00 am-12:00 pm

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**50<sup>th</sup>** *Did you know MACCOA will celebrate its  
Year of Service to Seniors in 2022?*

*Join the excitement!*



**Deliver Meals on  
Wheels**



**DONATE**



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