

Family Newsletter

July 2005

The Massachusetts 9/11 Fund



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In memoriam

Loretta W. Kowal

REMEMBRANCE BOOK DISTRIBUTION

PLEASE mark your calendars for **August 11 from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM.**

We will be distributing an "E-Vite" (web-based invitation) to solicit your attendance. You also have the enclosed invitation which offers a mail in or call in response instead. Please use only one of these options.

The distribution will be held at the JFK Library in a lovely space overlooking the harbor. We have invited Senator Kennedy but there is no guarantee he will be able to be present, given his competing priorities. It will be a simple and, we hope, gentle event, providing the right atmosphere to distribute these cherished permanent, portable memorial volumes. Our designers will also be there. The reason for the wide window of 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM is to allow for you and your guests to come any time within that period that is convenient, pick up your two complimentary volume sets, and perhaps spend some time with each other and us. We will offer light refreshments and some background music. It will be a time for sharing, contemplation and/or socializing, as you feel comfortable. We will provide support there for those of you who wish to avail yourselves of that service.

If you are unable to attend the distribution event, we will make arrangements to mail your two complimentary volumes to you.

You may purchase additional complete volume sets for \$150 each that evening or at any time thereafter, while our supply lasts. You may also purchase up to 25 of the individual layouts of your loved one, packaged together with the Introductory Book (which you will see at the event) describing the project and containing the listing of foundations, memorials and scholarships, for \$20.00 each.

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### **Featured Article:**

***Opportunity for Increased Family Involvement - pages four to five***

Upcoming Events

*Distribution of Remembrance  
Book  
August 11 - JFK Library -  
5:00 - 9:00 PM*

*September 11, 2005  
Commemorative activities of the  
MA 9/11 Fund Families*

Staff Contact Information

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**Farewell to LaNitra Webb**

Our Program Coordinator, Ms. LaNitra Webb, is moving on to a new position on July 11. She has become a part of your lives in many ways, and has been actively involved in all of the Fund's activities during the years she has spent with us. We wish her well, and thank her for her efforts that clearly were in the mission of supporting our community of families with both her skills and her heart. We remain in touch with LaNitra, and can forward your thoughts to her if you so choose.

**Our New Space**

We welcome everyone who would like to visit us at our new quarters in the Chinatown neighborhood of Boston. Our offices are located on the sixth floor of 75 Kneeland Street. The telephone numbers are:

David Hastings, Executive Director - 617.482.8150  
Diane Nealon, Social Work Coordinator - 617.482.8156  
Administrative Coordinator - 617.482.8153

The general toll-free number continues as  
1-(866) FUND-911 (1.866.386.3911)

Our email addresses, are now available, as follows:

[david.hastings@massfund.org](mailto:david.hastings@massfund.org)  
[diane.nealon@massfund.org](mailto:diane.nealon@massfund.org)

**2005 Commemorative Activities**

A group of families, board and staff met with the Lieutenant Governor on July 12 to develop plans for the September 11th commemoration. The activities are being proposed to start in the morning and include a reading of the names of the loved ones at the State House, placing of a wreath at the Living Memorial at the Boston Public Garden, the Madeline Amy Sweeney Award ceremonies, and ending with a brunch to start around 11:30 AM. Full details will be made available as soon as they are finalized and approved by the Lieutenant Governor.

We would like to solicit the names of those people interested in participating in the program. This year, we would like to emphasize the active involvement of the young people and young adults in the community. The committee working on the commemoration is requesting volunteers who would be interested in reading some of the names at the ceremony, preparing remarks that could be delivered at the ceremony, or otherwise making a contribution to the proceedings. Please contact David Hastings if you are interested in taking an active role in the ceremonies.

## **Tewksbury Massachusetts Memorial for 9/11**

We have been contacted by Fred Simon of the Tewksbury 9/11 Memorial who wanted to let all of our family members know about this memorial and its dedication on September 11th, 2005 at 9:00 am. This memorial in Tewksbury contains a walkway paved with bricks engraved with the names of each of those lost on September 11th. To view pictures and learn more about this memorial, please visit their website at [www.tewksbury911memorial.org](http://www.tewksbury911memorial.org), or contact Fred directly at 978.851.9097.

## **Madeline Amy Sweeney Award for Civilian Bravery**

Nominations are now being accepted for this year's Madeline Amy Sweeney Award for Civilian Bravery, awarded each year by the Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts on September 11th to a Massachusetts resident who demonstrated exceptional bravery, without regard for personal safety, in an effort to save the life or lives or another or others in actual imminent danger. To learn more about this award and to download a nomination form, please visit the website at [www.amysweeneyaward.com](http://www.amysweeneyaward.com) or contact David Hastings.

## **Request for Information - Moussaoui Trial**

As you probably have heard, Zacarias Moussaoui entered a guilty plea in April of this year to all charges brought against him by the U.S. government relating to his role in the September 11th attacks. Jury selection in the penalty phase portion of the trial is scheduled to begin on January 9, 2006 and opening statements are scheduled to begin on February 6, 2006. Presently, the Court has authorized the proceeding to be televised for interested 9/11 family members via closed circuit television (CCTV) at private sites ONLY in the following locations: Washington D.C., Manhattan, NY, Long Island, NY and Newark, NJ. The Massachusetts 9/11 Fund, Inc. has been approached by several family members requesting our advocacy in securing a Court designated CCTV site in Boston to view this proceeding. In order to determine if this was necessary, family members with email received a request from us several weeks ago asking them to complete a brief online survey gauging their interest in attending these proceedings at a potential site in Boston. We have received enough responses warranting our advocacy. Those who didn't have email but would still like to weigh in on this issue are asked to call Diane Nealon. As a result of the response, we met with the United States Attorney General in Massachusetts and found him to be very supportive of the possible establishment of a viewing site in Boston. It would have appropriate security and also counseling professionals available to assist in the support of family members who might choose to avail

themselves of this service. We will inform our community in the event the closed circuit site is, in fact, established. It is important to note that we appreciate that all of the members of our community are not of the same opinion with regard to the legal processes involved in this situation, and the Fund has not taken a political stand here. We are advocating in the voices of a considerable number of our families who expressed an interest in observing a process that is going forward outside of any of our control.

## **Charitable Responses to Tragedy: A Guide**

The Fund has begun to study its history and effectiveness in responding to the needs of the families. It is our hope that this study will be useful to other organizations who wish to respond to tragedies on a local level. At this time, we plan to interview board members, past and present about the history of the Fund, family members who received services from the Fund who wish to contribute to the study, and community organizations who have worked with the Fund. Any family member interested in working on this study with us and potentially assisting in the interviews or narratives is asked to contact Diane Nealon.

## **Comments/Questions?**

We encourage you to contact David Hastings or Diane Nealon by phone or email. We're interested in your feedback.

## **Increased Roles for Families - Please comment and/or volunteer**

The Board of Directors approved the following proposal for the expansion of the Family Advisory Committee and adding specific slots on the Board of Directors for family members.

The proposal has also been supported by the existing Family Advisory Committee, and the family members that attended the June 20 meeting of the Board and Families at which it was presented.

In this newsletter, we would like to open it up to the entire community of families and solicit thoughts as well as potential interest in becoming part of an expanded Family Advisory Committee, or to be considered for membership on the Board of Directors. You are encouraged to read and comment upon the proposal. Our plan is to develop a final plan and implement it for the Fall, 2005. The current proposal follows here:

It is essential that the Massachusetts 9/11 Fund, Inc. maintain and enhance ongoing communication with the families of the victims of the attacks in order to be responsive to the needs of the population as is both appropriate and possible. To do so, the following strategies are being proposed for feedback and evaluation by the current Family Advisory Committee, the Board of Directors, and the families themselves as individuals.

We believe the following to be true and important:

1. The role of the Family Advisory Committee (FAC) should be detailed, including its responsibilities and structure.
2. Provisions should be made to have as many as three family members serve in appropriate capacities on the Board of Directors allowing for the perspective(s) of our constituency to be present in all discussions.
3. The Executive Director of the fund shall maintain and enhance ongoing strong communication with the Family Advisory Committee as one method of attaining the goals of the fund as determined. Discussions should be summarized and generally distributed.
4. The FAC should retain the ability to directly address the Board, where necessary.
5. Meetings of the Board and families at large as currently constructed do not appear to provide what they were intended to accomplish. In both cases, these volunteer populations (board members and family members who venture out) are out in the evening for too many hours in a row, transportation has become an issue, and the strategy for the interaction is not always identified. It may well be that meeting times that would be best for most Board members may not work as well for most family members. Most importantly, the structures proposed in items 1-4 would address what the Board/Family meetings were designed to accomplish.

Recommendations to achieve these beliefs and priorities:

Define the Role of the FAC:

The Family Advisory Committee's (FAC) primary role should be to offer ongoing feedback to the professional staff of the organization to ensure that programs and services meet the interests and desires of the constituents. Where possible, this should be done in discussion, bringing in other families and individuals as would be productive. (For example, the FAC might call for a forum to open a family-wide discussion on a particular issue, rather than meet with the professional staff alone.) The FAC should be representative of the variety of family members in both familial relationship to the victims; in age; and in gender. [Specifically, widow(s), widower(s), parent(s), sibling(s), dependent(s); range of ages; male(s)/female(s)]

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## **Increased Roles for Families - continued. . .**

The FAC and the Nominating Committee of the Board should be responsible to identify a maximum of three individuals who will serve two-year terms on the board. Family members elected to the Board may not hold any office where they would need to recuse themselves from a general area in which the board must act. Such general areas include the budget, grants to families, and issues of fiduciary responsibility. Specifically, these offices include that of President, Vice President and Treasurer. Those family members elected to Board service are not eligible to serve as members of the FAC.

By providing three separate roles for family members: as "at-large" members of the constituency, FAC members, and Board members, the Fund should be able to maximize the forms and range of input as well as offering multiple structural ways for individuals and groups to offer their ideas. This avoids having a small number of folks in multiple roles, which might work against enabling a range of discussion.

Size of the FAC:

The FAC should be comprised of at least five members, and be as broadly representative of the families as possible to ensure that a balance of issues and priorities are both identified and presented in discussion with the Fund.

Elections of the FAC:

The FAC membership should be chosen from amongst those self-nominating for service. Unless that number exceeds twelve, elections need not be held. The President of the Board and the Executive Director may approach individuals from amongst the family members at large to consider serving on the FAC in the event there is either an insufficient number of family members self-identifying, or there are significant sub-groups not represented. In the 'worst case', elections would be held.

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Commemoration - September 11, 2005

Please watch your mail and email for your invitation. It is important to respond to ensure we provide for the proper seating at lunch.

