

Terri L. Hamad  
Director

Martin Kaufman  
Chairman

Noel Dentner  
Vice-Chairman

Aleta Jackson  
Secretary

## Monroe County Commission on Aging

29 Washington Street, Monroe, MI 48161

Telephones: 734.240.7363 \* Toll Free: 1.888.354.5500 \* Fax 734.240.7360

E-Mail: [mccoa@monroemi.org](mailto:mccoa@monroemi.org)

\* Website: [www.co.monroe.mi.us/CommonAging](http://www.co.monroe.mi.us/CommonAging)

### Board Members

Bruce Freimark

Nancy Hamman

Paul Simonton

John Sledge

Gerald Stone

Loyd Sype

## Commission on Aging Overview

The Commission on Aging acts as an advisory board to the Monroe County Board of Commissioners on issues relating to the older residents of the County.

**History:** The Commission on Aging was officially established by the Monroe Board of Commissioners November 28, 1973. Prior to that, service providers would go directly to the County Board to request funds. The Older Americans Act made more funds available requiring more local match dollars. Also, different groups of older people were organizing senior centers. The result was that the County Board was receiving more and more requests for funds.

Prior to the inception of the millage in 1981, the County of Monroe funded some of the available senior services. They funded roughly \$100,000 from the county general fund to provide services mostly at the operating senior centers. Before the millage vote in 1980, a coalition of the funded county senior agencies organized and formed a committee called the Every Ninth American committee. This group formed as a vehicle to petition the County Board of Commissioners to have the millage language placed on the ballot. At the time, 1 in 9 persons in Monroe County were 60+. Today, it is roughly 1 in 7 persons.

By establishing the Commission on Aging, the County Board created a body whose purpose was to review and evaluate senior programs, and recommend funding allocations for them. Now, service providers present their budget requests to the COA, which, in turn, make one comprehensive recommendation to the County Board.

Before the passage of the millage for senior citizen services, the County board allocated funds from the County General Fund to the COA, which then allocated those funds to senior programs.

Since the passage of the millage, the County Board has gradually withdrawn support for senior programs from the General Fund. Currently, there is no General Fund money in senior programs. Today, the COA budget runs solely on funds generated by the .5 ml millage.

**Membership:** Membership on the Commission on Aging consists of nine members. Each county commissioner appoints one person to the Commission on Aging. Commission members have the same term as county commissioners.

**Meetings:** Regular meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month at 1:00 p.m. Additional meetings, such as budget or committee meetings are scheduled as needed.

**Staff:** One full time director, one full time assistant, and one part time clerk make up the staff component for the Commission.

