



*Advocating for Older Adults of Today and Tomorrow*

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## **NEWS**

### **Contact:**

**Rob Norton**

**(860) 240-5202**

**[Robert.norton@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Robert.norton@cga.ct.gov)**

## **Legislators, Advocates for Persons with Disabilities Earn Connecticut Commission on Aging Honors**

HARTFORD—Two members of the Connecticut General Assembly and two of the state’s leading advocates for persons with disabilities have earned the Connecticut Commission on Aging’s 2008 “Agewise Advocate” awards.

The honorees are State Rep. Peter F. Villano (D-Hamden); State Rep. Kevin M. DelGobbo (R-Naugatuck); Quincy S. Abbot, of West Hartford, who has served the disability advocacy community for more than 40 years; and Stan Kosloski, of Cromwell, Project Director of the Connecticut Disability Advocacy Collaborative.

The awards will be presented at a ceremony in the State Capitol Jan. 9.

An independent agency of the Connecticut General Assembly created in 1993, the State Capitol-based commission presents the annual award to individuals who provide exemplary support of its work on behalf of the older adults of today and tomorrow.

“Through their words and actions, these forward-looking leaders consistently demonstrate a remarkable, unwavering commitment to help older adults and persons with disabilities live independent, rewarding lives,” said Connecticut Commission on Aging Executive Director Julia Evans Starr. “Their work directly supports the commission’s multi-faceted public policy agenda to guide the state in making responsible, informed decisions to prepare for the burgeoning population of older adults, including its one-million baby boomers.”

### **Representative Villano**

When the General Assembly convenes for its 2009 session in January, Rep. Villano, who received the Agewise Advocate award in 2005, will begin serving his ninth term as Hamden’s 91<sup>st</sup> District representative. Incoming Speaker of the House Christopher G. Donovan (D-Meriden) appointed Rep. Villano deputy majority whip at-large and he will also serve as co-chair of the Appropriations Committee subcommittee on Human Services. He has served as co-chair of the Human Services Committee and as a member of the Select Committee on Aging and Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee. He also serves as co-chair of the state’s Long-Term Care Advisory Council with co-chair Evans Starr.

## **Representative DelGobbo**

Rep. DelGobbo, a six-term veteran of the General Assembly from Naugatuck's 70<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, was recently nominated by Gov. M. Jodi Rell to be a Commissioner of the Department of Public Utility Control in the position reserved for utility customer advocate. He served as House ranking member on the Appropriations Committee and as House ranking member on the Energy and Technology Committee. He co-authored "Money Follows the Person II" legislation that provides older adults and persons with disabilities the opportunity to receive long-term care in their homes and communities.

## **Quincy Abbot**

In 2005, Abbot helped to write landmark legislation that provides persons with disabilities the right to live in the least restrictive setting of their choice. During 40 years of volunteer leadership, he has served as president of The Arc of Connecticut and The Arc of the United States (formerly the National Association for Retarded Citizens.) He is a member of the state's Long-Term Care Advisory Council and Money Follows the Person Steering Committee. He serves as co-chair of the Connect-Ability Steering Committee.

## **Stan Kosloski**

Kosloski has been project director at the Connecticut Disability Advocacy Collaborative since 2004 and has been instrumental in organizing its Disability Convention and Exposition which drew 800 people in September. He was assistant director of the state Office of Protection and Advocacy from 1978-1993 and 1995-2003 and served as Connecticut's Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator in the Weicker administration. He co-chairs the Money Follows the Person Steering Committee and is a member of the Connect-Ability Steering Committee. He has been involved with wheelchair basketball for 41 years, as both a player and coach.

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