

Silver Haired Legislature

The Silver Haired Legislature is an elected body of individuals who are at least 60 years of age, and it promotes conscientious legislative advocacy for Missouri's older adults.

Senators and Representatives are elected from the 18-county area served by NWMOAAA. They meet in June of each year and go through the process of determining potential legislative bills that would benefit Northwest Missourians. Those bills are then combined with the ones that delegates from the other nine Missouri Area Agencies on Aging have determined to be beneficial for their respective areas.

In the fall, all 30 Senators and 120 Representatives from across the state meet for two days to conduct a model legislative session. At that time, members are seated in the Missouri Senate and House chambers, where they debate and vote on previously-selected legislation and resolutions. From the docket, five bills are chosen by the Silver Haired Legislature as priority pieces of legislation to advocate for during the regular Missouri General Assembly.

Silver Haired Delegates can receive mileage reimbursement and per diem meal and lodging expense in conjunction with Silver Haired Legislature functions

All Silver Haired delegates from Northwest Missouri must attend all announced meetings. Two (2) unexcused absences within the 2 year term, which begins in May immediately after the election, will result in the delegate being replaced with an alternate to be chosen by the Area Agency Board of Directors to fill the unexpired term. The meetings normally involve planning, bill development and training, in addition to the actual Silver Haired Legislative session. Other meetings may be called as required. Candidates for the SHL must indicate their willingness to attend the meetings to the best of their abilities.