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## Thank You for Your Service, DLS Retirees!



*(Front row left to right: Brenda Cameron, Donna Demirai, Everett Griffiths, Kathy Reed, Richard Sciarappa. Back Row left to right: Walter Sandoval Dusza, Rick Kingsley, Mike Quinlivan, Diane Dziura, Dennis Mountain, Maura O'Neil.)*

Happy new fiscal year! At DLS, we're currently undergoing a transition as we bid farewell to a core group of immensely talented retirees and embrace a new approach to continuing to provide a high standard of professional service and regulatory review.

In the coming weeks and months, we know we won't be able to immediately replace or replicate the technical and institutional knowledge we're losing, but thanks to the diligent planning and cross-training efforts of the entire staff, we have a strong foundation to build upon.

During my time in Brookline, I interacted with a number of DLS staff. However, it wasn't until I came to DLS that I was able to witness firsthand the depth and breadth of the staff's dedication and knowledge. From the implementation of Prop 2 1/2 in the early 1980's to the more recent

technological advances in assessment practices, these folks have helped shape municipal finance in a constantly evolving landscape with consistent, professional acumen. What has impressed me most recently during what could have been a difficult time of organizational change has been their willingness to share that knowledge with their peers in order to sustain and further our mutually held goals of sound financial management across the Commonwealth.

We'll provide additional details about our internal structure and staffing, but, for now, we want to dedicate this issue to and acknowledge the 11 retirees. We enthusiastically applaud their nearly 300 years of combined service.

On behalf of the entire DLS staff, current and former, and those served in the cities, towns, school districts, professional associations, private accounting firms, public agencies and myriad other constituencies of DLS, I offer a heartfelt thank you to Brenda Cameron, Donna Demirai, Diane Dziura, Everett Griffiths, Rick Kingsley, Dennis Mountain, Maura O'Neil, Mike Quinlivan, Kathleen Reed, Richard D. Sciarappa and Walter Sandoval Dusza. I wish each of you a long, happy and healthy post-DLS life!

As we move forward, we will do all we can to ensure that your legacy of service is in good hands.

Sean R. Cronin  
Senior Deputy Commissioner of Local Services  
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## **11 Veteran DLS Employees Take Early Retirement**

**Bob Bliss - DLS Regional Manager and Director of Strategic Planning**

DLS staff and former employees held a luncheon on Thursday, June 25, to celebrate the careers of 11 longtime DLS staffers who retired in the Early Retirement Incentive Program (ERIP).

The 11 employees combined have state service of 294 years, not counting years they spent working for local governments before coming to DLS. Two additional DLS staffers are expected to retire in the second ERIP phase in the fall with 64 years additional of combined state service.

DLS Senior Deputy Commissioner Sean Cronin paid tribute to the retiring group, noting that their contributions over the years shaped the abilities of local governments to adapt to Proposition 2 1/2 and property valuation requirements.

Among the former DLS officials who attended the luncheon were former Administration and Finance Secretary and DOR Deputy Commissioner

Leslie Kirwan, former Director of the Bureau of Accounts Gerry Perry, former BOA staffer Barbara Dakin and former Technical Assistance Bureau chief Joe Markarian.

The 11 retirees, ranked in order of length of service, are:

- Diane Dziura, BOA field representative, 36 years
- Richard D. Sciarappa, BOA, 36 years
- Dennis P. Mountain, BOA supervisor, 30 years
- Brenda L. Cameron, BLA Deputy Chief, 31 years
- Maura O'Neil, BOA field representative, 30 years
- Frederick E. Kingsley, Bureau Chief for MDM/TAB, 29 years
- Kathleen A. Reed, BOA field representative, 29 years
- Donna M. Demirai, BLA, 27 years
- Walter J. Sandoval Dusza, BLA, 22 years
- Everett Griffiths, BOA field representative, 15 years
- Michael T. Quinlivan, IT field representative, 10 years

Several of the retirees responded to a request from *City & Town* to reflect on their service.

Diane Dziura, who joined DLS right out of college, said the favorite part of her job "was the one-on-one interaction with the people in cities and towns." She noted that "The one thing I will take with me is that I will always remember the great camaraderie that we always had and still continue to have in the Bureau of Accounts. We still see and keep contact with many of the former BOA employees on a regular basis and it is a great feeling to know that we will probably always have that lifelong connection."

Kathy Reed, who came to the Bureau of Accounts after having spent five years as town accountant in her hometown of Lakeville, said the most satisfying aspect of her job "was working at town halls on field visits," and said she leaves with "very fond memories of all the schools I have taught at and the people I have gotten to know." Kathy conducted 125 financial team seminars during her DLS career.

Everett Griffiths, who worked in state government for 12 years before coming to DLS, said simply, "All the memories were great."

Donna Demirai found her job in the Bureau of Local Assessments "appealed to my 'mathematical' and puzzle-solver nature" as she worked on data quality and worked with IT programmers to develop the Tax Rate Module on Gateway. "I enjoyed all the personalities of my co-workers and being 'connected' to them and their lives," she said.

On Wednesday, June 24, about 40 DLS staff, former DLS staff and current local officials attended a luncheon held in honor of Bureau of Accounts retirees Dennis Mountain, Kathy Reed and Maura O'Neil. Former Director of Accounts Jim Johnson attended, as did former DLS staffers Dan Bazin, Barbara Dakin, Tom Troy and Karen Avalle. Also in attendance were finance officials from the cities of Springfield and Worcester.

# A Message from the DOR Commissioner

**Mark E. Nunnely - Commissioner of Revenue**

As the Department of Revenue's new Commissioner, I would first like to extend warm greetings to the Commonwealth's local officials. The successes of my predecessors have been numerous and remarkable and I look forward to keeping up their good work. The Department is of considerable importance to the state and the more than 1,800 people here are tasked with a big agenda: collect some \$25 billion in revenues, ensure that children receive appropriate financial support and oversee the fiscal stewardship of the 351 cities and towns of the Commonwealth.

As an agency, we are in flux and hurtling towards a truly momentous new era. Many essential and well-publicized changes are right in front of us. I've been greatly impressed with the Department's dynamic ability to tackle challenges such as planning for the state's early retirement program while implementing two major technological systems for our tax side and Child Support.

It has already been rewarding, getting up to speed with the various inner workings and it's been no less of a privilege to become better acquainted with a growing number of our many groups and teams here including those that work in cities and towns across the Commonwealth. I have been equally impressed with the work of Sean Cronin, who earlier this year was named the Senior Deputy Commissioner of the Division of Local Services. Sean's credentials in public service speak for themselves, and I'm certain that anyone who has worked alongside him, especially during his 17 years in Brookline, would echo my unqualified assertion that he is a very qualified and talented person, one who is well-suited to spearhead the efforts of DLS.

In the weeks and months ahead, I am confident that Sean will continue to not only listen intently to our many state and municipal government friends throughout the Commonwealth, but will impress us with his vision and talent for, simply put, getting things done. We are ideally positioned to see Local Services - and ditto each of our other divisions at DOR - continue to evolve into signposts of public service, innovation and transparency.

I would be remiss if I didn't extend a very sincere thank you for the tremendous support and yeoman efforts of Lieutenant Governor, Karyn Polito. It's one thing to have had the very good fortune to have landed professionally on such firm ground, it's quite another to have done so in the company of someone as dedicated to the Commonwealth's cities and towns as the Lieutenant Governor.

Again, I would like to commend all of you for your previous successes and

personally invite you to share with us your considerable energy and ideas as we look forward to working together. I am not naive. We face unprecedented institutional change and more than a few looming issues. But, if the past is any indicator of the future - and I'm a firm believer that it is - I'm equally of the belief that the best days of Department are still ahead of us.

## New Bulletin: Updated Classified Land Forms

### Municipal Finance Law Bureau

The Division of Local Services has posted on its website the following Bulletin, which explains revisions made in several forms used in the administration of the statutes providing for the preferential taxation of classified forest, farm and recreational land. G.L. c. 61, 61A and 61B. The revised forms reflect technical and clarifying amendments in those statutes that were enacted in 2014 and are in effect.

[Bulletin 2015-09B](#) Classified Forest, Farm and Recreational Land Forms

## July Municipal Calendar

<b>July 1</b>	<b>Collector</b>	<b>Mail Annual Preliminary Tax Bills</b>  For communities issuing annual preliminary tax bills, the preliminary quarterly or semi-annual bills should be mailed by this date.
<b>July 15</b>	<b>Accountant</b>	<b>Certification Date for Free Cash: Anytime after Books are Closed</b>  Two weeks after the close of a fiscal year, all accounts are closed out and the resulting balance sheet and supplemental documentation submitted to DOR. Free cash is certified any time after this date.
<b>July 15</b>	<b>Accountant</b>	<b>Report Community Preservation Fund Balance:</b>

		<p><b>Anytime after Books are Closed</b></p> <p>After the close of a fiscal year, the fund balance is submitted to DOR (Form CP-2) and notice given to the Community Preservation Committee and other financial officers. The fund balance may be appropriated anytime after that report.</p>
<b>July 15</b>	<b>School Business Officials</b>	<p><b>Certification Date for Excess and Deficiency (E&amp;D) Fund</b></p> <p>Two weeks after the close of a fiscal year, all accounts are closed and the resulting balance sheet (a pre-closing trial balance or audited financial statements will not be accepted unless requested by the Director of Accounts) and supplemental documentation are submitted to DOR. E&amp;D Fund is certified any time after this date.</p>
<b>July 15</b>	<b>Assessors</b>	<p><b>Deadline for Appealing Commissioner's Pipeline Valuations to ATB</b></p>
<b>July 20</b>	<b>DOR/BLA</b>	<p><b>Notification of Changes in Proposed EQVs</b> (even numbered years only)</p>
<b>July 20</b>	<b>DOR/BLA</b>	<p><b>Notification of Changes in Proposed SOL Valuations</b> (every 4th year after 2005)</p>
<b>Final Day of Each Month</b>	<b>State Treasurer</b>	<p><b>Notification of monthly local aid distribution.</b></p> <p>Click <a href="http://www.mass.gov/treasury/cash-management">www.mass.gov/treasury/cash-management</a> to view distribution breakdown.</p>

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