

# MCFPC *Blue Ribbon News*

*Maine Coalition to Fight Prostate Cancer*

*July 2009*

- **Speakers Bureau Alert.** Volunteers are now available to make presentations to community groups like Kiwanis, Rotary, religious organizations, veterans groups and others. Our first presentations are scheduled and we look forward to many more invitations. Organizations can find our speakers at the [MCFPC website](#) or contact Mona Ervin at 784-2086 or [mjervin@roadrunner.com](mailto:mjervin@roadrunner.com). Tell your friends about us.
- **Newly released Cancer Facts & Figures – 2009** The American Cancer Society Surveillance and Health Policy Research figures were recently released. Indications are that we have a long way to go in fighting prostate cancer. Nation wide, the ACS predicts 192,280 newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer in 2009 with an estimated 27,360 deaths. Here in **Maine** the ACS predicts **1,130 new diagnosis and 160 deaths**. While this is an improvement from previous figures (166.8 deaths – 2001-2005) it is still too high a number.
- **Need a place to stay when faced with treatment?** We received an overwhelming response to last month's list of reduced rate places to stay while receiving cancer treatment. We regret that we omitted the following:
  - For patients receiving treatment at the Harold Alfond Center for Cancer Care, several area inns offer discounted nightly rates. Some patients may qualify for Alfond Funds, which may assist with gas cards and lodging.
- **September is "Prostate Cancer Awareness Month."** The members of the Coalition have begun to make plans for September. In light of the number of men who will die of prostate cancer we need to continue our work of raising awareness of this disease. We need men and women to help in planning and carrying out ideas. We need volunteers to help; be a liaison to our webmaster, chair our Speakers Bureau, write the monthly newsletter, collect information about charitable organizations to which we might apply for funds, etc, etc, etc. If any of these activities interest you for participation, please reply to this via email so we can disseminate replies among those of us who are heading up these initiatives.

- **The Blue Ribbon Leadership Training** will be held on **October 3 and 4,** and **November 7 and 8.** The goal of the training is to prepare leaders to facilitate support groups of prostate cancer survivors and partners. Current support group leaders are also invited to join. We have great sessions and presenters who are prepared to stimulate and energize as we move forward to increase the awareness of prostate cancer. In light of the newest data we must continue our fight. Both sessions are **free** of charge to attendees. The October session will be in Auburn at the Fireside Inn and the second in Bangor at the Black Bear Inn. Mark your calendars now – registration forms will be available soon. [Keep checking our web site for more details.](#)