

# We are A Best Place to Work in Maine

Allen Insurance and Financial was recently named one of the 2014 Best Places to Work in Maine. This is the third consecutive year Allen has earned this distinction.

The awards program was created in 2006 and is a project of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) – Maine State Council and Best Companies Group. Partners endorsing the program include: Mainebiz, the Maine State Chamber of Commerce and Maine HR Convention.

This statewide survey and awards program was designed to identify, recognize and honor the best places of employment in Maine, benefiting the state's economy, its workforce and businesses. The 2014 Best Places to Work in Maine list is made up of 70 companies in three size categories: small (15-49 U.S. employees), medium (50-249 U.S. employees) and large (250+ U.S. employees).

Allen's 70 employees puts us in the medium category. [Here is a link to the complete list.](#)

To be considered for participation, companies had to fulfill the following eligibility requirements:

- Have at least 15 employees working in Maine;
- Be a for-profit or not-for-profit business or government entity;
- Be a publicly or privately held business;
- Have a facility in the state of Maine
- Must be in business a minimum of 1 year.

Companies from across the state entered the two-part process to determine the **Best Places to Work in Maine**. The first part consisted of evaluating each nominated company's workplace

policies, practices, and demographics. This part of the process was worth approximately 25% of the total evaluation.

The second part consisted of an employee survey to measure the employee experience. This part of the process was worth approximately 75% of the total evaluation. The combined scores determined the top companies and the final rankings.

Best Companies Group managed the overall registration and survey process in Maine and also analyzed the data and used their expertise to determine the final rankings.

Allen Insurance and Financial and the other companies on the list will be recognized and honored at the Best Places to Work in Maine awards ceremony on Oct. 8 and will be profiled in a special publication by Mainebiz. The final rankings will be announced at the event.

For more information on the Best Places to Work in Maine program, visit [BestPlacestoWorkinME.com](http://BestPlacestoWorkinME.com)

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## Welcoming Amanda Corson



Amanda  
Corson

Amanda Corson has joined L.S. Robinson Co. insurance of Southwest Harbor as a personal insurance account executive.

A Bar Harbor native, Corson is a graduate of MDI High School and the University of Maine in Orono. She holds the ACSR (Accredited Customer Service Representative) and AAI (Accredited Advisor in Insurance) designations and brings 17 years of insurance

experience to L.S. Robinson.

Outside of work, Corson enjoys gardening, running and supporting her children's activities at MDI High School. She lives with her family in Trenton, where her husband Steve is the fire chief.

L.S. Robinson Co. has served the insurance needs of Mount Desert Island families and businesses since 1932. An independent agency that is now part of the employee-owned Allen Insurance and Financial, L.S. Robinson also offers health & life insurance and financial and retirement planning services from offices at [339 Main Street in Southwest Harbor.](#)

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## Welcoming Sally Weymouth-Carlisle



Sally  
Weymouth -  
Carlisle

Sally Weymouth-Carlisle has joined Allen Insurance and Financial as an outside sales producer.

A native of Belfast and a graduate of the University of Maine in Orono (BS- Business Administration), Sally has nearly a decade of experience in the insurance industry, most recently for a large national insurance carrier. She is a licensed property & casualty and life & health insurance producer in Maine.

As an outside sales specialist, Sally will be working with business owners on their insurance needs as well as connecting them with other members of the Allen team who can assist with other services for their business, such as health insurance or financial planning.

“My work is about building partnerships in the business community – something I find incredibly rewarding,” she said. Outside of work, Sally enjoys exercising, hiking and spending time with family. She and her family live in Morrill.

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## Welcoming Sandra Payson



Sandie  
Payson

Allen Insurance and Financial is pleased to announce that Sandra L. Payson of Rockland has joined the company as a personal lines account executive.

Payson is a graduate of Rockland District High School and holds the Accredited Adviser in Insurance (AAI) and Associate in Insurance Services (AIS) designations.

“Sandie brings more than 30 years of industry experience to our personal insurance division, – from call center work to claims, to servicing complex personal insurance accounts,” said Jean Dutch, chief operating officer at Allen Insurance and Financial. “She’s a great addition to an already strong staff.”

Said Payson: “I love insurance and believe in the products and coverages we sell. I like the complexities of our clients needs. Even after all my years in this business, there are still situations that will be new and unique. No day is ever the same and I truly believe in the good that our insurance products provide for our clients.”

A resident of Rockland, Payson has three grown children and four grandchildren. Outside of work, she enjoys babysitting her grandchildren as well as traveling, gardening, kayaking and dancing.

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# Marine Insurance on the Radio



Gene McKeever, center, and Chris Richmond, talk about marine insurance with Chris Wolf during the Pen Bay Pilot News Hour on Monday, April 14, 2014.

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## Dan Bookham Embraces New

# Leadership Role on LifeFlight Foundation Board of Trustees



Dan Bookham

At its January meeting, the LifeFlight Foundation Board of Trustees elected Daniel Bookham, a business insurance specialist and director of business development at Allen Insurance and Financial, to serve as chair. Bookham joined the board in 2012 and has provided guidance around issues relating to fundraising, communications and nonprofit management.

“Dan has been a strong asset to the LifeFlight Foundation since he agreed to come on board in 2012,” says LifeFlight Executive Director Thomas Judge. “He has helped generate support for LifeFlight among his business community connections, and the Foundation staff has gained valuable insights from his media background and fundraising experience from numerous nonprofits in midcoast Maine.”

Since joining the LifeFlight Board, Dan has played an important role in developing the organization’s strategic communications plan, and has been adept at creating opportunities for collaboration with business owners interested in helping LifeFlight. Dan and his wife, Jessie, were integral to the success of the first annual Islesboro Crossing which raised nearly \$25,000.

Previously, Bookham served as the executive director of the Penobscot Bay Regional Chamber of Commerce, and held several positions in the broadcasting industry. In the community, Bookham serves on the boards of the Penobscot Bay YMCA, United Mid Coast Charities, the Strand Theatre, and the Camden Windjammer Festival; and is a member of the PenBay Health Care

Strategic Planning Committee and America's Edge, a nationwide organization advocating for investment in early childhood development and education. Bookham is a graduate of the University of North London and the Midcoast Leadership Academy. Bookham resides in Rockland with his wife, daughter Scout, and their two dogs, making the most of all the cultural and outdoor activities the Midcoast has to offer.

LifeFlight of Maine is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit air medical and critical care transport organization. LifeFlight helicopters, flying at 165 miles per hour, bring lifesaving critical care staff and equipment directly to the patient. Overseen by 21 physicians, LifeFlight has transported more than 16,000 patients from every hospital and nearly all of Maine's communities and islands since its inception in 1998. The LifeFlight Foundation, also a 501(c)(3) non-profit established in 2003, provides fundraising and communications support to LifeFlight of Maine. If you would like to learn more about LifeFlight, please visit [www.lifeflightmaine.org](http://www.lifeflightmaine.org) or call 207-230-7092.

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## **Joella Rossignol Earns Safeco Insurance® Award of Excellence for Superior Underwriting Skill**



Joella Rossignol

Joella Rossignol has earned the Safeco Insurance Award of Excellence, an honor recognizing superior underwriting skill that is achieved by a select group of agents across the country who sell Safeco Insurance.

“Joella is dedicated to providing the protection our clients need at the right price,” said Mike Pierce, president of Allen Insurance and Financial. “Safeco shares that same dedication, and we are thrilled to be recognized as one of the company’s top agent partners.”

Joella has now earned the Award of Excellence four times. The award honors outstanding agents who have developed a solid underwriting relationship with Safeco and whose agencies have qualified for the Safeco Insurance Premier Partner Award, the company’s top recognition program.

“Outstanding underwriting and strong partnerships benefit everyone in the industry – carriers, agents and customers,” said Debbie Akers, vice president for Safeco’s underwriting field operations. “That’s why Safeco Insurance is proud to honor these top agents with the Award of Excellence, the most prestigious underwriting recognition our independent agent partners can achieve.”

Joella is based in the company’s office at 156 High Street in Belfast. She joined Allen Insurance and Financial in 1999. [Read her bio on our website.](#)

In business since 1923 and based in Boston, Mass., **Safeco Insurance** sells personal automobile, homeowners and specialty products through a network of more than 10,000 independent insurance agencies throughout the United States. Safeco is a Liberty Mutual Insurance company.

Boston-based Liberty Mutual Insurance is a diversified global insurer and the third largest property and casualty insurer in the U.S. based on 2012 direct premiums written as reported by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. Liberty Mutual Insurance also ranks 81st on the Fortune 100 list of



largest U.S. corporations, based on 2012 revenue.

For more information about Safeco Insurance, go to <http://www.safeco.com/>

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## Continuing Education Program Benefits Our Employees and Their Customers



Four members of the personal insurance team at Allen Insurance and Financial recently achieved the designation of Accredited Customer Service Representative from the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America.

They are (clockwise, from top left): Chris Wilson, Meesha Luce, Leann McKusic and Holly Hill-Coombs. All are based in the company's Rockland office.

"The ACSR designation shows our people are well-educated members of the insurance industry," said Scott Carlson, personal insurance team manager. "Holly, Meesha, Leann and Chris are dedicated to improving their technical knowledge and enhancing their professionalism."

The ACSR designation program was developed to recognize the contribution made to each customer by the service they are provided through independent insurance agencies such as Allen Insurance and Financial.

Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America is the nation's oldest and largest national association of independent insurance agents & brokers with more than 300,000 members. Find them online at [independentagent.com](http://independentagent.com).

Founded in 1866, Allen Insurance and Financial is an employee-owned insurance and financial planning services company with offices in Rockland, Camden, Belfast and Southwest Harbor, Maine. In 2014, the company will be celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its employee stock ownership plan.

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## **Bookham Named Director of Business Development**



Dan Bookham

Allen Insurance and Financial is pleased to announce the appointment of Dan Bookham, a business insurance specialist, as the company's director of business development, a new position.

Bookham joined the company in September 2012 after four years as executive director of the Penobscot Bay Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Other administrative changes effective Jan. 1, 2014 at Allen Insurance and Financial:

- The appointment of Jean Dutch as the company's Chief Operations Officer. She has also been named a vice president of the corporation. Dutch, of Belfast. She has been with the company since 1995.
- The appointment of Gene McKeever, a business and marine insurance specialist, as a vice president of the corporation. McKeever has been with Allen Insurance and Financial since March 1992.
- The retirement of Steve Crane and Peter Van Alstine from the company's board of directors. Crane, a former company president, retired from that position in November 2007. Van Alstine, a long-time financial advisor with the company, is retiring at the end of 2013.

The company's board of directors approved these changes at their annual meeting earlier this month.

Founded in 1866, Allen Insurance and Financial is an employee-owned insurance and financial planning services company with offices in Rockland, Camden, Belfast and Southwest Harbor, Maine. In 2014, the company will be celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its employee stock ownership.

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## **Lindsey Eaton Passes Maine P&C License Exam**



Lindsey  
Eaton

Allen Insurance and Financial is pleased to announce that Lindsey Eaton of Hope has obtained her license to sell property and casualty insurance in the state of Maine. She studied for the state exam through Allen's in-house education program.

As a scanning associate, Eaton plays a key role in Allen's paperless office system. She also supports members of the administrative staff and reception in the Camden office. She joined the company in February.

She is a Camden native and graduate of Camden Hills Regional High School.

The Allen Insurance and Financial education program allows the company's 70 employees to keep up with the always-changing insurance industry and to advance their careers through training and education.

Staff attend classes on company time as they prepare for their exams. Since the state also requires 24 hours of continuing education over every two-year period for those in the insurance business, Allen Insurance and Financial also offers those classes for their employees.