

# Builders Alliance Focuses on Affordable Care Act

✖ [Dan Wyman](#), Insured Benefits Manager at Allen Insurance and Financial, will be the guest speaker at the Maine Contractors & Builders Alliance Lincoln County meeting on Wednesday, March 13. Dan will focus on the Affordable Care Act and what it means for alliance members.

The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. at Montsweag Road House in Woolwich. Cost is \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members. RSVP with meal choice (chicken, steak or fish) to Lisa at I&S Insulation: [isoffice@tidewater.net](mailto:isoffice@tidewater.net)

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## Supporting Waldo Community Action Partners 2013



Allen Insurance and Financial recently made a donation to Waldo Community Action Partners, with the money going toward the completion of the installation of energy efficient windows at the Belfast Head Start Center on High Street. Pictured here are Business Insurance Specialist Richard Crossman of Allen Insurance and Financial and Keith Small, executive director of WCAP.

A multi-service agency serving Waldo County since 1965, WCAP is the largest provider of low-cost and free transportation and early childhood education in Waldo County. Allen Insurance and Financial, an independent agency providing insurance and financial planning services, has offices in Rockland, Camden and Southwest Harbor.

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# Mallory Follett Presents to Camden Club About Her Rotary Leadership Experience

Earlier this week Mallory Follett, a commercial insurance processor in our Camden office, gave a presentation to the Camden Rotary Club about her experience with the Rotary Young Leadership Awards program. Says Mallory: "I was very nervous at first, but once I looked up and saw some familiar, and all smiling faces, my nerves were calmed. I felt pretty good about my presentation after all was said and done."



"RYLA means something different for everyone. For me, RYLA was an eye opening experience that got me out of my comfort zone, and thinking about my role not only in the community, but the world.

"I admit, I was apprehensive at first, but once I arrived and saw all the smiling faces, I knew it would be an unforgettable weekend.

"RYLA helps you to discover your true potential and develop the skills needed to be a positive and effective leader in your

community, career, and everyday life.

“Through RYLA I developed stronger teambuilding and leadership skills, as well as self esteem and self confidence.

“I learned that if you establish a goal and take steps towards accomplishing that goal, anything is possible. I also learned that being a leader includes being a follower, a listener, a volunteer, even a friend. I know that I would not be the person and leader I am today if it had not been for my experience at RYLA.

“I can honestly say that I learned more in one weekend at RYLA than I ever expected. I encourage people to become more familiar with RYLA and what it really is. In a world of clichés, we hear the phrase “life-changing experience” far too often, but RYLA really is.”

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## **Learn More About New Law Redefining ‘Independent Contractor’**

A new Maine law clarifies the conditions under which a worker should be classified as an employee or as an independent contractor. It also applies the independent contractor standard uniformly across unemployment, wage and hour, and worker’s compensation laws.

The Maine Contractors and Builders Alliance is holding an informational meeting about the new law on Wednesday, Jan. 16 at

5:30 p.m. at Graffam Brothers Harborside Restaurant in Camden at 5:30 p.m. Call 593-0864 to reserve a spot.

Here is a link to the Maine.gov website about the new law:

[http://www.maine.gov/labor/misclass/employment\\_standard.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/labor/misclass/employment_standard.shtml)

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## Year-End Charitable Giving

As the holiday season approaches, with the end of one year and the start of another, we pause to give thanks for our blessings and the people in our lives. It is also a time when charitable giving often comes to mind. Charitable giving can be enhanced using income tax deductions, and so it can be much more effective when it is included as part of year-end tax planning.

Example(s):

Assume you are considering making a charitable gift equal to the sum of \$1,000 plus the income taxes you save with the charitable deduction. With a 28% tax rate, you might be able to give \$1,389 to charity ( $\$1,389 \times 28\% = \$389$  taxes saved). On the other hand, with a 35% tax rate, you might be able to give \$1,538 to charity ( $\$1,538 \times 35\% = \$538$  taxes saved).

### **Hurricane Sandy relief**

The IRS cautions people wishing to make disaster-related charitable donations to be aware of possible scams relating to Hurricane Sandy. Be sure to deal with recognized charities, and be wary of charities with similar sounding names. It is common for scam artists to impersonate charities using bogus websites, and through contact involving e-mails, telephone, social media, and in-person solicitations. Check out the charity on the IRS

website, [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), using the search feature, Exempt Organizations Select Check. And don't give or send cash; contribute by check or credit card.

### **Tax deduction for charitable gifts**

If you itemize deductions on your income tax return, you can generally deduct your gifts to qualified charities. However, the amount of your deduction may be limited to certain percentages of your adjusted gross income (AGI). For example, your deduction for gifts of cash to public charities are generally limited to 50 percent of your AGI for the year, and other gifts to charity may be limited to 30 percent or 20 percent of your AGI. Disallowed charitable deductions may generally be carried over and deducted over the next five years, subject to the income percentage limits in those years. And be sure to retain proper substantiation of your deduction for a charitable contribution.

### **Year-end tax planning**

When considering making charitable gifts at the end of a year, it is generally useful to include them as part of your year-end tax planning. In general, taxpayers have a certain amount of control over the timing of income and expenses. You generally want to time your recognition of income so that it will be taxed at a lower rate, and time your deductible expenses so that they can be claimed in years when you are in a higher tax bracket.

For example, if you expect that you will be in a higher tax bracket next year, it may make sense to wait and make the charitable contribution in January so that you can take the deduction in the next year when the deduction produces a greater tax benefit. Or you might push the charitable contribution, along with other deductions, into a year when your itemized deductions would be greater than the standard deduction. And, if the income percentage limits above are a concern in one year, you might move income into that year or move deductions out of

that year, so that a larger charitable deduction is available for that year.

A financial or tax professional can help you evaluate how to make charitable gifts in a way that is beneficial to you.

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**Supporting the Southwest  
Harbor Public Library**



L.S. Robinson Co. of Southwest Harbor supports the Southwest Harbor Public Library with an annual donation. Pictured here with Ken Salvatore of L.S. Robinson Co., are Patsy Fogarty, library trustees chairman, left, and Candy Emlen, library director.

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## Chris Richmond Advising The Landing School on Marine Systems



Chris  
Richmond

Christopher Richmond of Camden, a member of the Marine System

Program Advisory Committee at The Landing School, recently attended the school's annual meeting.

Richmond, a former schooner captain, is a commercial insurance producer at Allen Insurance and Financial, specializing in the marine industry.

The Landing School, based in Arundel educates men and women for careers in the marine industry as practical designers, builders and systems technicians who work professionally on today's vessels, adapt to the industry's evolving technology and appreciate the traditions of the past.

Chris Richmond can be reached at [crichmond@allenif.com](mailto:crichmond@allenif.com)

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## **American Cancer Society Names Honorary Team for Relay For Life of MidCoast Maine**

The American Cancer Society has selected Allen Insurance and Financial to serve as honorary team for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Relay For Life® of MidCoast Maine.

Allen Insurance and Financial has been a longtime supporter of the Relay For Life event held annually in Rockport. The company's first Relay For Life team walked in 2004. Since that time the agency's team has raised more than \$45,000 for Relay For Life and has been the top fundraising team countless times at the event. Allen has been a corporate sponsor of the Relay For



Life of MidCoast Maine for four years and prior to that the company donated meeting space to the event. Allen Insurance and Financial employees Trisha Wadsworth and Karen Reed will be at Relay to accept the award during the opening ceremony.

"Relay For Life is an inspiring event that gives everyone in communities across the globe a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease," said Wadsworth. "Allen Insurance and Financial views participation in Relay as a cornerstone in our company's community-based philanthropy. It is an honor to be recognized for the kind of effort that comes so naturally to all of us."

At Relay, teams of people camp out at a local school, park, or fairground and take turns walking or running around a track or path. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event. Because cancer never sleeps, Relays are overnight events. Teams do most of their fundraising prior to the event, but some teams also hold creative fundraisers at their camp sites during Relay. Relay brings together friends, families, businesses, hospitals, schools, faith-based groups . . . people from all walks of life – all aimed at furthering the American Cancer Society's efforts to

save lives by helping people stay well, by helping people get well, by finding cures and by fighting back.

Relay For Life began in 1985, when Dr. Gordy Klatt, a colorectal surgeon, took the first step of his 24-hour walk around a track in Tacoma, Wash., and raised \$27,000 to support the American Cancer Society. In 2011, more than 3.5 million people in 5,000 communities in the United States, along with additional communities in 20 other countries, will gather to take part in this global phenomenon and raise much-needed funds and awareness to save lives from cancer.

Community members serving on the Relay For Life committee include: Ronna Emery, Don & Ainsley Kennedy and Bob Jean.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Relay For Life of MidCoast Maine takes place at Camden Hills Regional High School on June 22 & 23. To participate, call your American Cancer Society at 1-800-227-2345 or visit [www.RelayForLife.org/midcoastme](http://www.RelayForLife.org/midcoastme).

The American Cancer Society combines an unyielding passion with nearly a century of experience to save lives and end suffering from cancer. As a global grassroots force of more than three million volunteers, ACS fights for every birthday threatened by every cancer in every community. The American Cancer Society saves lives by helping people stay well by preventing cancer or detecting it early; by helping people get well by being there for them during and after a cancer diagnosis; by finding cures through investment in groundbreaking discovery; and by fighting back by rallying lawmakers to pass laws to defeat cancer and by rallying communities worldwide to join the fight.

As the nation's largest non-governmental investor in cancer research, contributing about \$3.4 billion, the American Cancer Society turns what it knows about cancer into what we do. As a

result, more than 11 million people in Americawho have had cancer and countless more who have avoided it will be celebrating birthdays this year. To learn more about us or to get help, call anytime, day or night, at 1-800-227-2345 or visit cancer.org.

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## **We're Proud to Support Area Interfaith Outreach**



Allen Insurance and Financial recently made a cash donation to the Area Interfaith Outreach. AIO food collection barrels will be placed in the greater Rockland community through November 15.

Look for one in the Allen Insurance and Financial office on School Street in Rockland. Pictured here are Joanne Billington, business insurance specialist at Allen Insurance and Financial and Joyce Burnham, AIO president.

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# Penobscot Bay Regional Chamber of Commerce Non Profit Seminar Series

A challenging economy. A competitive funding environment. It is now more important than ever for non-profit organizations to equip themselves with the tools needed to capture attention, support and donations in order to carry out their mission.

The Penobscot Bay Regional Chamber is excited to offer a new, free seminar series designed to tackle five big issues in the non-profit world: raising unrestricted funds from the business community and individuals; collaboration between organizations; board development; generating press and PR; and staging truly special events.

The seminars will be offered the second Wednesday of the month (starting Oct. 12) from 9:15 to 10:45 a.m. at the Rockland Public Library. They are open to all and will be free to attend (although a suggested donation of \$5 per person to defray costs would be greatly appreciated by the Chamber, a fellow non-profit).

More information is available on the [Pen Bay chamber website](#).