




# **2021 Maine Rising:**

## **MDF Annual Meeting & Champion Awards Celebration**

# **September 24, 2021**

VIRTUAL EVENT | 8:45 - 11:00 AM

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# AGENDA

- 8:45AM** MDF Annual Business Meeting
- 9:00** Welcome & Remarks  
*Yellow Light Breen, MDF President and CEO*
- 9:10** Keynote Speaker:  
*Lisa Sockabasin, Wabanaki Public Health*
- 9:30** Keynote Speaker:  
*Tae Chong, Maine State Chamber of Commerce*
- 9:50** Plenary Remarks  
*Yellow Light Breen*
- 10:05** 2021 Champion Awards Celebration
- › Champion of Education and Workforce Development  
*Strengthen LA, represented by Shanna Cox, President & CEO, and Delan Fulgham, Workforce Program Manager, Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce*
  - › Champion of Rural Economic Development  
*Andrew Hamilton, Attorney, Eaton Peabody*
  - › William F. King, Jr., Downtown Champion Award  
*Greg Paxton, Retired Executive Director, Maine Preservation*
  - › ICL Distinguished Alumni Award  
*Shenna Bellows (ICL Xi), Secretary of State, State of Maine*
  - › Kenneth M. Curtis Leadership Award  
*Kevin Hancock (LM Lambda), President & CEO, Hancock Lumber Company, Inc.*
  - › President's Award  
*To be announced live at the event*
- 10:45** Closing Remarks & Call to Action  
*Yellow Light Breen*

# mdf

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**Yellow Light Breen**

*President & CEO*  
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Institute for Family-Owned Business  
Portland

**Deborah Johnson**

Dept. of Economic & Community  
Development  
Augusta

**Amy Landry**

Androscoggin Valley Council of  
Governments (AVCOG)  
Auburn

**Eric Soelberg**

L.L. Bean  
Freeport

**Carlos Mello**

Finance Authority of Maine  
Augusta

# 2021 SPEAKERS



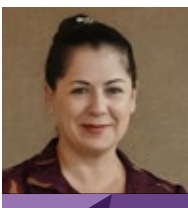
## **YELLOW LIGHT BREEN / SPEAKER**

Yellow Light Breen became CEO of MDF in 2015 where he develops strategic direction, integration, and partnerships across MDF's mission and programs. Yellow has a diverse background in business, public policy, and law. He spent twelve years with Bangor Savings Bank, overseeing strategic planning, marketing, online banking, community development, and charitable activities. Prior, he was a senior official at the Maine Department of Education and an advisor to Governor Angus King. He has been an active volunteer in many education and economic development efforts. Yellow was born and raised in central Maine, a product of Maine public schools, and earned undergraduate and law degrees from Harvard University. Yellow lives in Holden and loves to hike, swim, and ski with his wife and children.



## **TAE CHONG / KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Tae Chong is Director of Multicultural Markets and Strategies for the Maine State Chamber. His goal is to educate, advocate and outreach to Maine businesses interested in increasing sales and services to, and hiring and retaining, People of Color in Maine and Northern New England. Tae has over twenty years' experience working with the immigrant and refugee and people of color populations in Maine in economic development, business counseling, workforce development, education, and multicultural programming. Tae has consulted with Hannaford to expand their product lines to attract more immigrant, refugee and people of color to shop at their stores and he also assisted them with employee recruitment and retention strategies. He has been featured in MaineBiz and Maine Magazine, was a speaker at MaineLive and TED Dirigo, and published several articles and reports including CEI's Building Maine's Economy and the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. He was named as one of Maine's 50 most influential people by Maine Magazine. Tae has been co-chair of the refugee advisory council for the state of Maine's DHHS Department and a board member of NAACP, LULAC, Asian American Heritage Foundation, and University of Southern Maine's Department of Social Work. Tae is a long-time Portland resident and the first Asian American elected to the Portland School Committee and Portland City Council, where he serves on the Economic Community Development and Health and Human Services Committees, Portland Downtown Corporation and Creative Portland. He also served on the Governor of Maine's Economic Recovery Committee and chaired the Supportive Services and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committees. He holds a B.S. in Political Science and an MBA from the University of Southern Maine.



## **LISA SOCKABASIN / KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Lisa Sockabasin is a citizen of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motaikomikuk with extensive experience and expertise in Tribal, State, and Federal governments, non-profits, and philanthropic organizations. In her capacity as the Director of the Wabanaki Public Health and Healing & Recovery Departments of Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness (WPHW), Lisa collaborates with tribal leadership, the WPHW team, and federal and philanthropic partners to address systemic inequities experienced by Wabanaki communities in Maine and to develop and implement culturally based programs that respond to the needs of our communities.

Lisa has over 20 years of experience addressing inequities experienced by and providing opportunities to tribal populations. Prior to joining WPHW, Lisa served as the Director of the Office of Health Equity in the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, as an epidemiologist in the Infectious Disease Program for the State of Maine, as a nurse epidemiologist with the North American Indian Center of Boston, Inc., and served for two decades as coordinator to Harvard's Four Directions Summer Research Program. Lisa holds a B.S. in Biology from the University of Maine, a B.S. in Nursing from the University of Maine, and an M.S. in Health Policy and Management from the University of Southern Maine. She holds a graduate certificate in Non-Profit Management and serves on a number of boards including Maine Philanthropy Center, Planned Parenthood of New England, and the ACLU of Maine.

# 2021 AWARDEES



## **SHENNA BELLOWS** / ICL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA

Shenna Bellows is Maine's 50th Secretary of State, sworn into her first two-year term in the position on Jan. 4, 2021. Secretary Bellows is Maine's first female Secretary of State. Secretary Bellows previously served two terms in the Maine Senate from 2016-2020, representing 11 towns in southern Kennebec County. In the Maine Senate, she served as Senate Chair of the Labor and Housing Committee and served on the Judiciary Committee. She was a 2020 presidential elector in the Electoral College.

Secretary Bellows most recently led the Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine as executive director from 2018 to 2020. Previously, she owned Bellows & Company, a non-profit consulting business, where she worked with organizations such as the Sierra Club's Maine Chapter, Consumers for Affordable Healthcare and the Maine Women's Lobby. She also served as interim executive director of LearningWorks. In 2014, Secretary Bellows was the Democratic nominee for United States Senate in Maine.

From 2005 to 2013, Secretary Bellows was executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Maine. She was a member of the first Right to Know Advisory Committee and the Maine Freedom of Information Coalition. She served on the Executive Committee of the 2009 and 2012 ballot campaigns to pass marriage equality in Maine, and co-chaired a successful 2011 statewide ballot campaign to restore same-day voter registration. She was an original member of the Committee for Ranked Choice Voting.

Currently, Secretary Bellows is serving as co-chairperson of the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) State Heritage Committee, and as co-chairperson of the Civic Health Subcommittee of the Council of State Governments Healthy States National Task Force.

Secretary Bellows grew up in Hancock and is a graduate of Ellsworth High School. She holds a B.A. in International Politics and Economics from Middlebury College. She volunteered with the Peace Corps in Panama and AmeriCorps VISTA in Nashville, Tennessee. Secretary Bellows lives with her husband, Brandon, in Manchester, where she serves on the Manchester Conservation Commission.



## **ANDREW HAMILTON** / CHAMPION OF RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Andy has served for 35 years as counsel to businesses and as general counsel to municipalities, and is the Leader of Eaton Peabody's Municipal Law & Finance Practice Group. He provides general counsel advice to various municipalities, including Lincoln, Mount Desert, Howland, Greenville, Oakfield, and Baileyville.

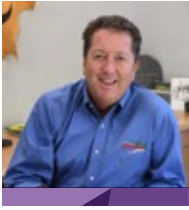
For the last 10 years, Andy has worked extensively with businesses, non-profit organizations and municipalities with the redevelopment of pulp and paper mill sites, and works with other attorneys at Eaton Peabody in supporting a range of forest products businesses.

He also has 35 years experience in general environmental counseling and regulatory compliance, natural resource permitting, and land use permitting, with extensive experience in hazardous substance and waste laws.

In addition, Andy maintains an extensive utilities practice, which includes serving as general counsel to a number of public water utility districts.

Andy is a resident of Bangor and is the past chair of the Katahdin Area Council Boy Scouts of America, Bangor YMCA, United Way of Eastern Maine, and the Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce. In addition to other community organizations, Andy has provided community redevelopment efforts with the FOR/Maine communities committee.

## 2021 MDF AWARDEES (CONTINUED)



### KEVIN HANCOCK / KENNETH M. CURTIS LEADERSHIP AWARD

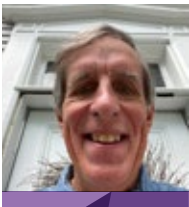
Kevin Hancock is an award-winning author, speaker, and CEO. Hancock Lumber Company, one of America's oldest family businesses, is fully integrated across the forest products and building materials industries. Headquartered in Casco, Maine, since 1848, the company is represented by its 565 employees who lead the activity of the business across 9 retail stores, 3 sawmills and a truss plant. The company also grows trees on 12,000 acres of timberland.

Hancock Lumber is a seven-time consecutive recipient of the 'Best Places to Work in Maine' award. The company also is a recipient of the Maine Family Business of the Year Award, the Governor's Award for Business Excellence, the MITC 'Exporter of the Year' award, and the Pro-Sales National Dealer of the Year Award.

Kevin is a past chairman of the National Lumber and Building Materials Dealers Association. Kevin also is a recipient of the Ed Muskie 'Access to Justice' Award, the Habitat For Humanity 'Spirit of Humanity' Award, the Boy Scouts of America 'Distinguished Citizen' Award, and Timber Processing Magazine's 'Man of the Year' Award. Kevin also is a member of the Maine Indian Tribal State Commission.

Kevin's first book, *Not For Sale – Finding Center in the Land of Crazy Horse* won three national book awards. *The Seventh Power – One CEO's Journey into the Business of Shared Leadership* was published in 2020 by Post Hill Press and is distributed by Simon & Schuster. Kevin's third published book released in 2021 titled, *48 Whispers from Pine Ridge and the Northern Plains*, is a hybrid book of sorts—part photography and part thoughts for reflection, heightened self-awareness, and human advancement.

Kevin is a frequent visitor to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota and an advocate of strengthening the voices of all individuals—within a company or a community—through listening, empowering, and shared leadership. Kevin also is the founder of a non-profit organization called *The Seventh Power* dedicated to advancing economic sovereignty for native communities across America. Kevin is a graduate of Lake Region High School and Bowdoin College. He lives in Maine with his wife Alison.



### GREG PAXTON / WILLIAM F. KING, JR., DOWNTOWN CHAMPION

Greg Paxton was executive director of Maine Preservation (MP) from 2008 – June 2021. He served on the Maine Downtown Center Advisory Council of Maine Development Foundation throughout this time. During his tenure, MP helped lobby to establish in 2008 and retain the Maine Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit. MP led development of three economic impact reports by professional economists documenting its success, including investment of \$600 million in 130 historic rehabilitation projects. MP assisted 50 of these projects and was a partner in 5 projects with development costs of \$38 million. MP also participated in the sale of 8 vacant or underused historic properties through its Protect & Sell Program, protecting them in perpetuity with preservation easements. MP provided field service assistance to 1,500 preservation projects in Maine since 2009 and in the past two years gave out \$430,000 in rehabilitation grants to nonprofit partners.

Greg was CEO of Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation from 1981-2008, Preservation Administrator for Historic Charleston foundation 1977-1981 and Site Manager of Mount Independence in Vermont, 1973-1977. He is a past Trustee of the National Trust for Historic Preservation; founding Chair of Statewide and Local Partners; and past Chair of Preservation Action, the national lobbying organization. He also served on the Board of Directors of CEI Capital Management LLC and on the Public Policy Committee for MEREDA. He is a graduate of Williams College with an MA in historic preservation from the University of Vermont. He is married to Dr. Lynne Werner with a grown son Burke and a one-year-old Cream Golden, Oban.



### **STRENGTHEN LA / CHAMPION OF EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

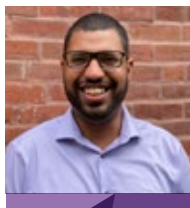
With the continued labor shortage and employers expressing the critical need for skilled workers at every level in order to compete and grow, Lewiston Auburn launched Strengthen LA, a comprehensive strategy to knit together programs, resources, and capacity; align them in a common direction, and fill gaps, creating a seamless continuum of education, training and employment. Local families and businesses will benefit by helping workers achieve their greatest potential and employers fill needed positions.

The Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce is the backbone organization of the Strengthen LA workforce project with 30+ partners in the LA area. We work diligently to build relationships, have a strategic approach, and execute moving this effort forward! [www.StrengthenLA.org](http://www.StrengthenLA.org)



### **SHANNA COX, PRESIDENT & CEO, LEWISTON AUBURN METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

As President and CEO, Shanna oversees daily operations, plans events, and develops strategies to support the Chamber, its members, and the LA community. She promotes a culture that's encouraging and inspirational and uses her strategic thinking abilities to strengthen her connections and relationships to meet the mission of the Chamber. Positive and passionate, empowering and empathetic, Shanna brings 110% to everything she does. An exceptional public speaker, she's honest and approachable and is ready to hear any and all ideas that will benefit the community. Whether she's renovating her 1912 Craftsman Bungalow, cooking with her three teenage boys, or serving on the Lewiston Planning Board and Maine Equal Justice Board with energy and vision, Shanna gets it done.



### **DELAN FULGHAM, WORKFORCE PROGRAM MANAGER, LEWISTON AUBURN METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

As Workforce Program Manager, Delan is the backbone of Strengthen LA, a collaborative workforce initiative. He creates processes, streamlines communications, and is active with outreach to potential and current members. A networking guru, Delan's influence expands well beyond the LA community. Delan is a fast and eager learner and a proven self-starter. He's currently working on his Bachelor's in Business Administration after receiving an associate degree at Central Maine Community College. Confident and reliable, genuine and kind, Delan is a connection you want to make. You can find Delan out and about in the LA community, spending time with his family and friends, and supporting the local restaurant and brewery scenes.



### **PRESIDENT'S AWARD / TO BE ANNOUNCED LIVE**

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