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# NewsLink

## Maine Bankers Association

*The link to  
Maine bank  
news, events  
and more.*

July 16, 2020

## MBA's Response During COVID-19 Pandemic

The MBA staff has worked tirelessly to represent the interests of Maine banks during the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are just some of the things we've done in response to the last few months:

- worked with the Governor's office to ensure that banking was deemed an essential service
- worked closely with the congressional delegation to get changes made to the PPP program to better serve the needs of Maine businesses
- sent out several press releases early on with the MCUL to reassure consumers about the stability of Maine's financial services industry
- had thrice weekly calls with the MCUL to coordinate a financial services response in Maine, as well as craft a checklist for our membership to use as a best practices' guideline for reopening lobbies to regular operations
- hosted 10 CEO calls with an average of 25 CEOs participating. CEOs have been joined by Senator Collins, Governor Mills, Commissioner Heather Johnson of DECD, and Lee Umphrey from the Governor's Economic Recovery Committee
- held virtual meetings for most MBA Committees, including the newly formed Return to Normal Operations Working Group. Several expert guest speakers were part of these meetings
- at the suggestion of our former Chair, Tony McKim, we launched the food insecurity project raising \$62,500 distributed to 37 food pantries statewide
- held a Virtual Directors Forum with a presentation from Eric Rosengren, President & CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, on the Main Street Lending program and other Federal Reserve Actions
- developed a COVID-19 page on our website to consolidate state and federal updates, as well as worked with our affiliate members to promote their resources related to COVID-19
- published the C-19 Update to provide a single reference point in your inbox for updates related to issued regulations and forms, as well as future meetings planned. This email update is distributed to more than 200 bankers across the state and has had over 50 issues sent

## Foreclosure Protection: Where are We Now?

By: Chris Bell, Associate General Counsel, Compliance Alliance

*The COVID-19 pandemic has changed American life as we know it. As the country continues to deal with the health crisis, the effects of containment measures ripple through the American economy. Unemployment remains high as state economies expand and contract in inverse proportion to the virus's spread. Regulators are in an arms race with rapidly changing markets, forcing banks to adapt to an ever-changing regulatory landscape. Even as we struggle to deal with the immediate concerns, we know the effects of this pandemic will be with us for some time. Economic shocks will continue to reverberate and play out in the housing markets around the country. As we shift into the next phase of operating in the pandemic and consider what options exist to help struggling mortgage borrowers, we should take note of the status of the expansive mortgagor protections passed by Congress, federal agencies, and other government authorities.*

Read the full article [here](#).

## MBA Events & Programs

We're in the process of finalizing our updated events and programs for 2020. There will be lots of virtual opportunities for you to listen to industry experts and network with your fellow bankers! Be sure to check out the [Events Calendar](#) to find out more information as these programs are announced.

## Bank News and Banks in the Community

### Bar Harbor Bank & Trust



Bar Harbor Bank & Trust has named seven high school graduates from Maine as recipients of the Bank's 2020 Career & Technical Education Scholarship. Read more [here](#).

### Kennebunk Savings



Gather recently held their 6th Annual Fill the Hall food drive at the historic Music Hall in downtown Portsmouth. Kennebunk Savings matched donations, dollar-for-dollar, and in the end put up \$7,500 toward Gather's total received. Read more [here](#).

### Skowhegan Savings Bank



Skowhegan Savings Bank is pleased to announce the seven recipients of the 2020 Skowhegan Savings College Scholarship awards. Read more [here](#).

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