



Volume 5, No. 15 April 11, 2023  
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## Join us for Aging Advocacy Day May 9!

[www.gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day-2023](http://www.gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day-2023) | #WIAgingAdvocacyDay2023 #WIAAD

### Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

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#### ***Need to Know***

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##### **Reminder: Second Quarter Virtual ACE Meeting Tomorrow**

*Wednesday, April 12 | 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.*

(Calendar invitation, link and agenda sent by Rosanna Mazzara ([Rosanna.Mazzara@gwaar.org](mailto:Rosanna.Mazzara@gwaar.org)))

For the second quarter, our A Commitment to Excellence (ACE) meeting will include updates in preparation for Aging Advocacy Day May 9, as well as GWAAR Advocacy updates.

##### **Sharing Staff Changes, Request for County/Tribal Aging Unit Directors-**

Receiving prompt, accurate and vital information from the State of Wisconsin and GWAAR is vital for strengthening all areas of your aging program and serving your Older Americans better. Please take the time to reach out to your assigned GWAAR Older American Consultant, to advise of management and staff contact changes when they occur, and then enter those changes in the State SharePoint Directory. To get to the State Directory, please click on this link: <http://bit.ly/40XN4hz> The State has also created a tutorial video on how to enter changes. You can go directly to the tutorial video by clicking here: <https://bit.ly/41biLDS>

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to

[Rosanna.mazzara@gwaar.org](mailto:Rosanna.mazzara@gwaar.org) or [meganm.takahashi@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:meganm.takahashi@dhs.wisconsin.gov).



### Advocacy

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[\*Janet Zander\*](#), *Advocacy and Public Policy Coordinator*

#### ***Nice to Know***

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##### **Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) Action Alert – State Budget Campaign Week Two**

The state legislature's Joint Finance Committee has three public hearings remaining on the 2023-2025 state budget.

The remaining public hearing schedule is:

- Tuesday, April 11, 2023 - UW-Eau Claire, Davies Student Center Ojibwe Grand Ballroom (Third Floor) 77 Roosevelt Ave., Eau Claire

- Wednesday, April 12, 2023 - Wilderness Resort, Glacier Canyon Conference Center Sandstone Meeting Room 45 Hillman Road, Wisconsin Dells
- Wednesday, April 26, 2023 - Lakeland Union High School 9573 State Highway 70, Minocqua

See the Joint Finance Committee 2023-2025 Biennial Budget Public Comment Website (<https://legis.wisconsin.gov/topics/budgetcomments/>) for additional information.

With so much at stake for older adults and caregivers, we must use every opportunity available to provide input on the 2023-2025 state budget. This is week two of the **Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network's (WAAN) four-week campaign to educate members of the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) about pressing issues impacting the lives of older Wisconsinites. The campaign includes strategies for connecting with members of the JFC, your own state Senator and Assembly Representative, as well as opportunities to educate the public and media about WAAN's priority issues.**

WAAN has created **a theme for each week in April to help coordinate our messages.** The themes each week cover issues of importance to older adults and caregivers.

Themes for the remaining three weeks are below:

- April 10 – Program/Service Investment: ADRCs, Elder Justice, & Home-Delivered Meal Service
- April 17 – Independence & Health: Healthy Aging Grants/Housing
- April 24 – \*Caregiving: Family Caregivers/Long-term Care Workforce

(\*Get your comments submitted early the final week of the campaign, as the online portal and email address could close after the final hearing on April 26th.)

**Action needed this week:**

**Action Step 1 – Testify at one of this week's public hearings** (Tips for Testifying Before JFC at State Budget Hearings

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2006628>) or submit online comments related to need investments in ADRCs, Elder Justice programs, and/or Home-Delivered Meal Service (see talking point resources below) to the Joint Finance Committee using their online portal: [www.legis.wisconsin.gov/topics/budgetcomments](http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/topics/budgetcomments) (If you prefer, your comments may also be submitted to the Joint Finance Committee using the following email address: [budget.comments@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:budget.comments@legis.wisconsin.gov))



**Action Step 2 – Send emails to your own state elected officials.** Send one email to your state Assembly Representative and another to your state Senator. To find out who your state legislators are (and to find their contact information) visit <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/> and enter your home address in the box under “Who are my Legislators?” Let your legislators know how these issues impact you personally or those you serve. Be sure you include your address, so they know you are a constituent or are serving constituents in their district.

**Action Step 3 – Share this message** with board members, program participants, volunteers and community members and partners and ask them to take action too!

**Additional Optional Action Steps -**

**Share your story** (see Five Steps for Creating Powerful Personal Testimony <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2007740>). Have you, a family member, or those you serve benefitted from information or assistance provided by their local ADRC? Been helped by a Benefit Specialist on a time sensitive need? Been a victim of elder abuse? Contacted the Guardian Support Center with questions about

guardianship or advanced directives? Received home-delivered meals or benefitted from a safety check provided by the meal deliverer? How are these services improving lives in your community? How are waiting lists for services or long wait times for appointments impacting you and others you care about or for? **In addition to sharing your personal story in your written comments to JFC consider one or more of these additional actions:**

- A. **Write a letter to the editor!** Using your story and/or talking points on either of the issues (see below) write a short letter to the editor (usually around 200-250 words) to your local daily or weekly paper.
- B. **Prepare articles for your agency newsletter related to these budget topics** (and/or submit an article to your local newspaper regarding funding needs of ADRCs, elder justice needs, or home-delivered-meals).
- C. **Share a budget message on your social media sites and tag your state Senator and Assembly Representative.** Find social media links for state legislators here: <https://www.wispolitics.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/230303Directory.pdf> (Senators see pg. 8 and Assembly Representatives see pgs. 9 & 10).
- D. **Attend an in-district listening session with your legislator(s).** Many legislators are holding listening sessions in their districts. Sign up for your legislator's electronic newsletters and watch for opportunities for you to connect with your legislators.
- E. **Invite your legislators for a site visit or to attend an agency event or board meeting.** This is a great way to help your legislators hear about and see the great work you are doing.

See WAAN's ADRC Investment Issue Brief (<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2007613>), Elder Justice Issue Brief (<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2007656>) and Home Delivered Meal Services Issue Brief (<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2007625>) for more information on the network's budget asks and talking points.

**Your voice matters!** The more of us that participate in the hearings and the weekly campaign activities, the more legislators will hear what issues are important to aging advocates and older adults.

## **Family Caregiver Support**

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*[Bryn Ceman](#), Older Americans Act Consultant - Family Caregiver Support Specialist*

### ***Need to Know***

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#### **Reminder: September Caregiver Support Community Statewide Meeting**

There has been some interest in an in-person for our Caregiver Coordinator group. So that there is enough time to plan and hopefully decent traveling weather, September seems to be the best month. The purpose of this poll is to gauge the number of people willing to travel and their availability on the proposed meeting date and at the available time. Please complete this poll today: <https://forms.office.com/r/tXZrs5WGJF>

The poll results will help us determine if a large in-person meeting is practical and if it would be well attended. If there is little to no interest, we would keep our standing virtual meeting already set for September. The proposed date for the in-person meeting is Tuesday, September 26 from 1 - 3 pm at the Aging & Disability Resource Center of Portage County 1519 Water Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481. This poll will close Friday, April 21st at 5 pm. Thank you for your help!

## ***Nice to Know***

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### **Caregiver Event: Embracing families in their journey with memory loss and dementia**

*Wednesday, May 17 | 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.*

The Alzheimer's Association of WI is offering a caregiver event. Please share within your Aging Units and ADRCs.

If you are taking care of someone with memory issues, this conversation is for you.

- Hear about the experiences of family caregivers
- Learn how Hispanic and Latino families are at greater risk for dementia related diseases
- Find out about ways to reduce risk and be healthier
- Learn about the ways to support people with memory loss and those who care for them

24/7 Helpline: 800.272.3900 | [alz.org](http://alz.org) | This is a no-cost presentation.

For more information, view the event flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2007766>.

## **Health Promotion**

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*[Angie Sullivan](#), Older Americans Act Consultant - Health Promotions Specialist*

### ***Nice to Know***

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#### **Reminder: engAGED Webinar: Supporting the Social Engagement Needs of Underserved Populations**

*Thursday, April 13 | 11:00 a.m.*

Don't miss this webinar on ways to socially engage older adults from underserved communities. Hosted in partnership with the Diverse Elders Coalition. The webinar will focus on social engagement among LGBTQ+ older adults. Register today at:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_mpDENVepSxCbhJQr7OPNWg#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mpDENVepSxCbhJQr7OPNWg#/registration)

#### **Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (OAA Title III-D) Orientation Available**

*Thursday, April 20 | 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.*

Are you interested in learning more about the provisions and priorities of Older Americans Act Title III-D (Health Promotion and Disease Prevention)? This interactive, 90-minute orientation will cover the purpose of health promotion and disease prevention programs in your community, evidence-based guidelines, where to find eligible programs as well as other important resources. This orientation is done in a small group, and participants are highly encouraged to have their camera on and participate in discussions. Please email Angie Sullivan with any questions regarding this training at [angela.sullivan@gwaar.org](mailto:angela.sullivan@gwaar.org). Register for this orientation at: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvcuCvpzgvEtKTVpgAZxFOyCMbtVOBqMsN>.

## Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)

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[Ingrid A. Kunding](#), Senior Medicare Patrol Project Manager

Molly Kelly,

### **Nice to Know**

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#### **Introducing New Volunteer Video**

April is National Volunteer Month! This is a special time for SMP to honor and recognize the enormous contributions that volunteers provide. SMP is grateful to our team of volunteers who support the mission. They are an essential part of what we do and are invaluable to our success.

In addition to recognizing the volunteer team during the month of April, SMP is also excited to introduce a new volunteer recruitment video:

<https://youtu.be/JclprfiVxFc>. This three-

minute video reinforces the value of volunteering and describes the various opportunities within our organization. SMP partnered with HVS Advertising & Marketing to produce this video.

Please use this as another resource from SMP. If you know of someone who might be interested in volunteering, please share this link with them: <https://www.smpwi.org/volunteer/>. They can then go to Become A Volunteer - Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol to learn more or contact us at (888) 818-2166.

Thank you for helping us to share this video!

