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Join us for Aging Advocacy Day May 9!

www.gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day-2023 | #WIAgingAdvocacyDay2023 #WIAAD

Advocacy

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

Nice to Know

Final Joint Finance Committee Budget Hearing April 26

The Joint Committee on Finance (JFC) has been hosting biennial legislative budget hearings across the state throughout April. The final budget hearing will be held in Minocqua on April 26. The hearings provide members of the public an opportunity to share their thoughts directly with members of the Committee as they work on developing their 2023-2025 state budget.

JFC Public Hearing in Minocqua

Wednesday, April 26th from 10am-5pm

Lakeland Union High School Theatre

9573 State Highway 70, Minocqua, WI 54548

Those unable to attend an in-person budget hearing, are strongly encouraged to share your budget input/comments with members of the JFC using their online portal:

<https://legis.wisconsin.gov/topics/budgetcomments/> or this email address:
budgetcomments@legis.wisconsin.gov.

Let the JFC members know what budget proposals and issues are most important to you. Make your voices heard!

Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) Action Alert – State Budget Campaign Week Three

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 two weeks are below:

- 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 – Submit budget comments related to need investments in Healthy Aging Grants or Housing Support (see talking point resources below) to the Joint Finance Committee using their online portal: 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: budgetcomments@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>). **Healthy Aging Grants** – Have you, a family member, or someone you serve had a recent fall? What were the costs financially and to your independence? Have you recently attended, taught, or sponsored a falls prevention class (Stepping On)? How are these services improving lives in your community? How are falls impacting you and/or your community – EMS calls, emergency room visits? Have you or someone you know participated in a class to learn about managing chronic conditions or improving physical activity? How would your community benefit from resources used to help strengthen and expand training and support to grow the number of evidence-based prevention classes, facilitators, and participants? How would resources, funding and support for local falls prevention efforts, and assistance to build falls prevention coalitions help your community? **Housing** – What has been your experience trying to find (or help someone else find) accessible and affordable housing in your community? What percentage of your income are you (or those you serve) paying for housing? Are you or someone you know struggling to pay home property taxes or to pay for home repairs or home modifications? Is homelessness a concern in your community?

See WAAN’s Healthy Aging Grants Issue Brief (<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2007753>) or Housing Issue Brief (<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2007642>) for more information on the network’s budget asks and talking points.

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.

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.

Aging Advocacy Day 2023 – Registration & Lodging Information

Registration

Currently, there are approximately 150 participants registered for Aging Advocacy Day on May 9. Registration closes at 5 p.m. on Wed., April 26, 2023. Please get your registrations in as soon as possible.

Registrations can be completed here: [Aging Advocacy Day 2023 Registration](#)

Lodging

The Best Western Premier Park Hotel - 22 S Carroll St, Madison, WI 53703, where our Aging Advocacy Day training will occur (and across the street from the State Capitol), has a small block of rooms reserved for anyone wishing to arrive the night before (May 8th). There are 9 rooms still remaining. The room rates they are offering are:

- \$169 plus tax per night for traditional rooms with 1 or 2 beds
- \$179 plus tax per night for deluxe rooms with 1 or 2 beds
- \$229 plus tax per night for king suites

If you are interested in reserving one of the remaining rooms, you can reserve a room here - https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.50061.html?groupId=M32ZS3P1. There are many other hotels in the Madison area, as well, but I am not familiar with the rates. The only hotel I have used in Madison is located off the beltline (12/18) and their rates were below the state rate (at that time) and the hotel was fine. The hotel is the AmericInn by Wyndham Madison West. Here is a link for reservations: <https://link.edgepilot.com/s/3af02fdc/QIjTYFCHIE6JQevJoVeiwg?u=https://www.reservations.com/Hotel/ameriinn-madison-west>

Survey Request: The Face of Caregiving

The Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations needs your help to put a real face on the dire impacts the caregiver crisis is having. It is critical that policymakers hear personal stories from across the state on the impacts the caregiver crisis is having on people with disabilities, older adults, and family caregivers filling in gaps. They also need to hear from care workers who are being driven from the profession by low pay and no benefits. The goal of the survey is to share your stories directly with policymakers as they craft the state budget and with the media to draw attention to the crisis.

Please complete the survey and encourage others to do the same:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PJDMNDK>. GWAAR is a member of the Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations.

Family Caregiver Support

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

Nice to Know

Do You Know an Amazing Caregiver?

Nominate them today and Empowered Caregiver Community will send them a FREE caregiver box just because we think they are awesome too! Fill out the nomination form here:

<https://www.empoweredcaregivercommunity.com/nominate-a-caregiver>. For more information, visit the Empowered Caregiver Community site: <https://www.empoweredcaregivercommunity.com/>.

Health Promotion

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: 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. Register for this orientation at: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvcuCvpzgvEtKTVpgAZxFAQyCMbtV0BqMsN>.

Reminder: Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar

Tuesday, May 23 | 1:00 p.m.

Save the date for the next Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar. The webinar will feature successful high-level evidence-based programs currently being implemented at Aging Units across the state. Register today at <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZrcOitrlrGN1PG7QPCYySMLkz4aaArYG0>.

Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)

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

Molly Kelly,

Nice to Know

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!

