



Volume 6, No. 10 March 5, 2024
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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Nice to Know

Reminder: ADILN conference Early Bird Registration extended through March 8

Wisconsin Aging, Disability, and Independent Living Network conference

April 23–25, 2024

Join leaders from the Wisconsin Aging, Disability, and Independent Living Network April 23–25, 2024, in La Crosse, WI. This conference is focused on improving the lives of older people and adults with disabilities. Attendees will enjoy two full days of learning and have numerous opportunities to learn, network, and collaborate with each other.

Early Bird: \$275 until March 8

Regular: \$300 beginning March 9

Register for the conference: <https://bit.ly/49fS3xz>

More information: <https://gwaar.org/adiln-2024>



Exhibitor Opportunity

Exhibitor booth, registration and payment information:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008054>

Agencies and vendors are invited to host an exhibition booth at the conference. The expo hall will be open throughout the conference, and attendees will have ample time to visit.

The conference will bring together more than 500 professionals in the ADILN field, including professional staff and board members from:

- Aging and disability resource centers.
- County and Tribal Nation aging units.
- Tribal Nation aging and disability agencies.
- Independent living centers.
- Human services departments.
- Senior centers.
- Advocacy organizations.
- Disability services organizations.

Space is limited! The first 40 organizations to register and send payment will be accepted.

If your organization serves the aging, disability, and independent living communities, [register now!](#)

Exhibitor registration: <https://bit.ly/3Td7TE1>

From the Alzheimer's Association Wisconsin Chapter:

38th Annual Wisconsin State Conference

May 5-6, 2024, Wisconsin Dells

Registration is now open for the 38th Annual Wisconsin State Conference, May 5 - 6, 2024 — "Pioneering Hope: Through Research, Treatment, Education and Support."

The conference is for professional and family caregivers, here is the link to see who is speaking and the various topics that are being offered.

Conference schedule:

<https://www.alz.org/wi/events/wisconsin-state-conference>

Join us at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells so we can improve the lives of those living with dementia and their families. Learn more about the conference and register today.

More information and registration: <https://bit.ly/4c19q7w>



In the news:

Doreen Goetsch, CSW, Elder Abuse Victim Liaison GWAAR & Elder Abuse Later in Life Program Coordinator; Walworth County

Doreen was one of the featured guests on the March 4, 2024 episode of the Larry Meiller Show on Wisconsin Public Radio: *Raising elder abuse awareness; Dementia research update*



Listen to the episode:

<https://www.wpr.org/shows/larry-meiller-show/raising-elder-abuse-awareness-dementia-research-update>

Visit the show site: <https://www.wpr.org/shows/larry-meiller-show>

Cookie Lough, member, GWAAR Board of Directors

Cookie Lough was featured in a local article highlighting her involvement with the U.S. Aging Policy Briefing and Advocacy Training.

"Cookie Lough, a social worker by profession, has been selected to represent Wisconsin's Congressional District Seven in Washington, D.C., for the 30th annual U.S. Aging Policy Briefing and Advocacy Training the week of March 11."

Read the article: <https://bit.ly/48GtYzh>



Advocacy

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

Nice to Know



Join us for Aging Advocacy Day May 14!

www.gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day-2024 | #WIAgingAdvocacyDay #WIAAD24

Reminder: Aging Advocacy Day 2024

Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Registration opens March 14, 2024

Are you interested in issues affecting older adults and caregivers? Would you like to tell your legislator what aging/caregiver services mean/have meant to you, your family, or those you serve?

If you answered yes, please join members of the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN), aging network professionals, older adults, and family caregivers on **Tuesday, May 14** to “tell your story,” and help educate state legislators about issues impacting Wisconsin’s aging population.

Citizens from around the state will gather in Madison on Tuesday, May 14 for training, to meet with other constituents from your Senate and Assembly district, and for office visits with your legislators. No experience is necessary; you’ll get the training and support you need before meeting with state lawmakers. Following the training, join others from your state Senate and Assembly district to provide information and share personal stories with your legislators to help them understand how specific policy issues and proposals impact you, your family, and older constituents.

Registration begins March 14, 2024. The registration link will be posted at: <https://gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day-2024>. Check back regularly for updates.

Family Caregiver Support

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

Nice to Know

2024 Healthy Living with Mild Cognitive Impairment Education Series

Helping people across Wisconsin live and cope with an MCI diagnosis.

Friday, March 15, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

Join Nathaniel Chin, MD, and Jennifer McAlister from the Wisconsin Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center, and guest speakers, to learn more about Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI). Each program will end with a Q&A session.

Register to attend each program in person throughout the year at one of five locations across Wisconsin in Brown, Dane, Dodge/Jefferson, La Crosse, or Rock counties. Or register to participate from anywhere, live online via Zoom, through each date's registration link.

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The flyer is titled "Healthy Living with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) Education Series" and features a red header. It includes a QR code and a list of locations: Brown County (University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire), Dane County (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Dodge/Jefferson County (University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point), La Crosse County (University of Wisconsin-La Crosse), and Rock County (University of Wisconsin-Rock County). It also mentions a guest speaker, Sterling Johnson, PhD, and provides contact information for the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.

March 15 Topic: Precision Medicine: Alzheimer's Disease Biomarkers and New Therapies

Registration: <https://uwmadison.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0rfu6opj8jGtwwPWNV-JX8X958NFzil1Al#/registration>

More information: <https://www.adrc.wisc.edu/mci>

Reminder: Survey opportunity for family caregivers

Caregiver Coordinators and other professionals within the Aging & Disability Community, the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) is looking for your HELP! **Please share this survey opportunity with your family caregivers!**

The Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) and Falls Free® Wisconsin are surveying family caregivers to learn more about their thoughts on falls risk and prevention. We would greatly appreciate your help in sharing our survey to your family caregivers! **Survey link:** <https://bit.ly/3SF5Vfp>

Use the flyer and QR code with the sample language provided below when sharing:

"Falls are the leading cause of injury and death of older adults in Wisconsin. Caregivers are in a unique position - you provide care for individuals that may be at risk of falling while you yourself may also be at risk. Prevention can make all the difference to help you and the person you care for stay safe and avoid injuries.

The Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) and Falls Free® Wisconsin are surveying family caregivers to learn more about your thoughts on falls risk and prevention. We would greatly appreciate your input! Please take 3-5 minutes to complete the survey below. Thank you for your time and consideration!"



Did you know? Home safety assessments, minor home improvements/equipment and wellness classes are available to family caregivers through the Wisconsin Department of Health Services caregiver support and falls prevention programs!

For more information: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aging/caregiver.htm>

Health Promotion

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

Nice to Know

Online Health Promotion Programming Opportunity for OAA Title III-D Funding

UW Madison Extension StrongBodies Series

- Class offered via Zoom
- Meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. weekly for 11-12 weeks
- Aging Units can reserve spots for county residents with III-D funding (\$50 per/participant)

After Extension receives your request for spots, you will be mailed invoice for payment, flyer for upcoming virtual series for promotion (editable for you to add your local contact info) and link to online registration for the virtual class so you can register your local residents.



Reserve spots here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdR3AiuppiZvIaWzYTk3YmpmFpAMhM-9EAAtqJX8JWAuvqqAKw/viewform?usp=sf_link

Participant demographic information will be sent to you for your WellSky (SAMS) reporting after the deadline for each series.

For more information about StrongBodies visit here:

<https://healthyliving.extension.wisc.edu/programs/strongbodies/>

Upcoming 2024 Virtual StrongBodies series:

Spring Series: April 9 - June 27 (registration deadline Friday, May 3)

Summer Series: July 9 - September 26 (registration deadline Friday, Aug. 2)

Fall Series: October 1 - December 19 (registration deadline Friday, Oct. 25)

For more information on this virtual opportunity, contact Jen Whitty, Health Promotion Programs Coordinator - jennifer.whitty@wisc.edu

Reserve spot link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdR3AiuppiZvIaWzYTk3YmpmFpAMhM-9EAAtqJX8JWAuvqqAKw/viewform?usp=sf_link

Visit the site: <https://healthyliving.extension.wisc.edu/programs/strongbodies/>

Reminder: Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) Evidence-based Program Facilitation

WIHA announced a partnership opportunity to implement, high-level evidence-based programs virtually in your community. You do the marketing, recruitment, registration, and distribution of materials; and WIHA does the facilitation! See the "menu" in the flyer for cost and a listing of available programs. This is a pilot program that will operate on a first come, first serve basis. Contact WIHA for more information at info@wihealthyaging.org

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008056>

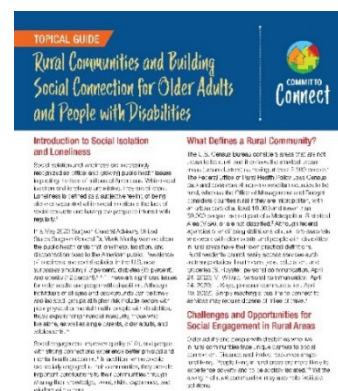


Reminder: Rural Resource from Commit to Connect

Nearly one-fifth of older adults live in rural areas and as a result of their geography are at higher risk of experiencing social isolation and loneliness. Commit to Connect recently released, *Rural Communities and Building Social Connection for Older Adults and People with Disabilities*, a topical guide aimed at assisting staff and volunteer leaders from organizations serving older adults and people with disabilities in rural areas seeking to enhance or initiate social engagement efforts. Check out this publication and more on the resources section of the Commit to Connect website!

Visit the website: <https://committtoconnect.org/resources/>

View the topical guide: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008057>



Medicare Outreach and Assistance

Nice to Know

[Alyssa Kulpa](#), Medicare Outreach Coordinator

Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) Outreach Idea

Every month, the GWAAR Medicare Outreach Coordinator, Alyssa Kulpa, shares a MIPPA outreach idea.

March's Idea of the Month is "SHIP Volunteer Resources". Idea of Month resources are an ideal model for your organization to use to meet your outreach goals, educate Medicare beneficiaries, and encourage participants to become advocates for their own health care.

Download the March Idea of the Month: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008060>

View past ideas: <https://gwaar.org/idea-of-the-month>

Nutrition

[Pam VanKampen](#), Older Americans Act Consultant - Nutrition Specialist/Senior Center Representative

Nice to Know

ACL Senior Nutrition Program Anniversary: Get Ready to Connect and Celebrate

Wednesday, March 20, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Join ACL's Office of Nutrition and Health Promotion Programs (ONHPP) to celebrate the 52nd anniversary of the national Senior Nutrition Program, which is funded by the Older Americans Act. This virtual event will

recognize the national program's impact and the importance of connectedness in the everyday work of local programs to support the health and well-being of older adults.

In addition to remarks from ACL senior leadership and ONHPP director Keri Lipperini, the event will feature a panel discussion from the state unit on aging, an area agency on aging, and a local service provider in Tennessee. They will discuss strategies that can be leveraged by the broader aging services network.

This event will be captioned. For accommodation requests, please email Kathryn.Tucker@acl.hhs.gov.

Registration: https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_Zg2wy7YeSja6zNj8_GMxtw#/registration



Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

[Ingrid A. Kunderer](#), Senior Medicare Patrol Program Director

Nice to Know

Spring issue of the Wisconsin SMP newsletter, The Scoop, is available

Happy March! In this issue you will find information about Medicare Part B preventive benefits, an article about playing pickleball, a warning about QR codes, justice served in a \$200M health care fraud scheme, and so much more!

The newsletter is attached and can also be found on our website: SMP | Resources | Newsletters | The Scoop, Spring Edition.

<https://www.smpwi.org/resources/newsletters/>

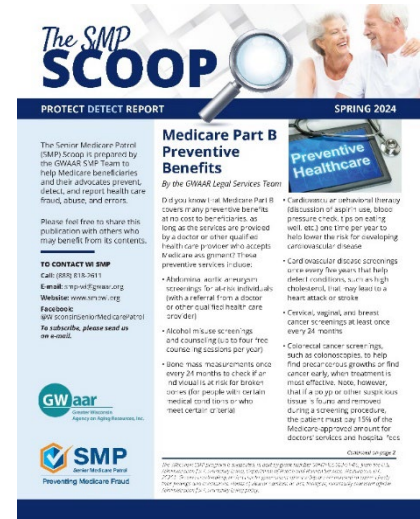
You are welcome (and encouraged) to share this newsletter with anyone you think might find the information useful – whether it be consumers, Medicare beneficiaries, neighbors, family and friends, those who work with older adults, etc. All articles included in this newsletter are available for reprint in other publications.

Please keep us in mind for upcoming outreach events that you may be hosting or opportunities for presentations. Our volunteer team is growing, and we are eager to share the SMP message!

Feel free to contact the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol if you have any questions. We can be reached at our toll-free helpline, 888-818-2611 or by email, smp-wi@gwaar.org.

Read the newsletter:

<https://www.smpwi.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/SMP-Scoop-Newsletter-Spring-2024-1.pdf>



The Senior Medicare Patrol's newsletter, The Scoop, Spring 2024 edition

Volunteerism

Need to Know

Reminder: 2024 Volunteer Programs Survey open through March 7

Any staff member who participates in volunteer coordination or volunteer management in ADRC, Aging Unit, Tribal Nation, or Independent Living programs is invited to take or share the 2024 Volunteer Programs Survey. The purpose of this survey is to collect information around how volunteer staff feel about the successes, challenges and outlooks of their programs as well as help determine what tools and supports could be needed for the volunteer network. This survey expands off of the survey that was done last spring. Please share this survey with any and all staff members that participate in volunteer coordination or volunteer management in your agency.

For questions or additional information, please contact:

Samantha Margelofsky (she/her), Volunteer Program Coordinator
Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources,
Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Samantha.margelofsky@dhs.wisconsin.gov, 608-267-3228

Take the survey: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7701774/2024-Volunteer-Programs-Survey>

