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608-243-5670 | info@gwaar.org | gwaar.org



Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Nice to Know

Reminder: Invitation to apply for GWAAR's Board of Directors

Would you like to play a role in shaping the direction of programs and services for older people in Wisconsin?

We invite you to volunteer or share this opportunity with leaders who would be interested in joining the GWAAR Board of Directors.

GWAAR is looking for thoughtful, civic-minded, energetic individuals to serve on its 11-member board. Board Members play a critical role in guiding and overseeing the agency's actions and initiatives.

Candidates must live outside Dane and Milwaukee Counties and be able to devote time and energy to GWAAR's governance, including:

- Serve at least one 3-year term on the board.
- Attend approximately 6 board meetings a year in Stevens Point, with virtual attendance possible.
 - o Board members can elect to receive a \$125 stipend for virtual or in-person attendance and mileage reimbursement for in-person attendance at board meetings.

Learn more: [GWAAR Board of Directors Application](https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2005629): <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2005629>

Questions? Contact [GWAAR Executive Director John Schnabl](mailto:john.schanbl@gwaar.org): john.schanbl@gwaar.org



Advocacy

[Emily Petersen](#), Advocacy and Public Policy Director

Need to Know

Reminder: Join WAAN's Fall Webinar Series!

Join the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) every Tuesday in October for a series of engaging webinars focused on our top policy priorities ahead of the 2027–2029 biennial budget! These include asks related to funding for Aging & Disability Resource Centers, home-delivered meals, falls prevention, and specialized transportation.

Each week, you'll hear from staff, policy experts, and consumers as we dive into our key policy asks, explore how to use WAAN's issue briefs when connecting with legislators, and share strategies for telling your story and making your voice heard. These webinars are designed to give you the knowledge, tools, and confidence you need to be an effective advocate.

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Whether you're brand new to advocacy or have been involved for years, this series is a great opportunity to prepare for the upcoming budget and legislative sessions and strengthen your ability to talk about the issues that matter most with your legislators.

Home-delivered Meals

Tuesday, October 6 | 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Registration: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/BbuWP5nNQtm2Ew1LRbSuCA>

Falls Prevention

Tuesday, October 13 | 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Registration: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/m9bm2w5hTT6Q_S39WFuN_w

Aging and Disability Resource Centers

Tuesday, October 20 | 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Registration: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/FQTdwpzsTXmv1Sp2fvyMCw>

Specialized Transportation

Tuesday, October 27 | 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Registration: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/X9Bp-B5EQmGmknrTdZ6BaA>

More information available here: <https://gwaar.org/get-ready-to-advocate>

Join the Wisconsin Volunteer Driver Coalition

Volunteer driver programs are an essential part of the transportation network in communities across Wisconsin. They help older adults, people with disabilities, veterans, and others get to medical appointments, grocery stores, community activities, and other essential destinations. However, insurance practices that result in increased premiums, changes in coverage, or other barriers related to volunteer driving can make it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain volunteer drivers.

We believe our strongest opportunity to create change is by continuing to work together.

What does joining the coalition mean?

We want participation to be easy and flexible. There will be no regular meetings or minimum time commitment.

Coalition members will:

- Receive updates on volunteer driver insurance issues and legislative developments.
- Be notified when there are important opportunities to support legislation.
- Receive information, talking points, and other resources to make advocacy as easy as possible.
- Have opportunities to share local experiences and stories that can help demonstrate the importance of this issue.
- Be encouraged to contact legislators when action is needed and share advocacy opportunities with their networks.

Joining the Wisconsin Coalition for Volunteer Drivers is simple. If you or your organization would like to participate, please fill out the form at the link below.

Wisconsin Coalition for Volunteer Drivers – Join the Coalition: <https://bit.ly/4i4tonN>

Nice to Know

Reminder: Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act

On July 14, the Senate passed the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act ([S. 2120](#)) through unanimous consent and the bill now moves to the House for consideration.

S. 2120: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/2120>

The House is in recess until after the midterm elections in November. The Reauthorization first needs to go before the House Education and Workforce Committee, of which Representative Grothman is a member. After a final bill is negotiated out of that committee, it will go before the full House of Representatives.

Now is a great time to contact your Representative and ask them to support the OAA Reauthorization Act. The Reauthorization includes many provisions that we, and our partners, support including a national resource center for social isolation, codification of grab-and-go meals, and a recommended increase in funding levels each year for five years.

Please use and modify our action alert here: <https://bit.ly/4fM0Qxp>

Disability Voting Rights Week 2026: Be Prepared for the November Election

September 17 | 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. | via Zoom

Webinar registration: <https://bit.ly/4yBl8QG>

Wisconsin has a very important statewide election coming up. This webinar will help you be prepared to vote on November 3. Please join the Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition to celebrate Disability Voting Rights Week 2026 and learn more about your voting rights, election accessibility, and what you will be voting on. This webinar will teach you important deadlines, ways you can vote, your voting rights, and what will be on your ballot.



Reminder: In-District Events

Legislators are in their districts and eager to hear from constituents about the issues that matter. Now is a great time to schedule an In-District Aging Advocacy event in your region with your state Representatives and Senators. Local hosts are encouraged to schedule these events between now and the end of October 2026. When you schedule your meeting, please reach out to let us know!

Did you know that WAAN can provide reimbursement of up to \$300 to support In-District Events? Funds can be used for facility rentals, refreshments, speaker fees, printing costs, and more. To learn more and/or submit a request for reimbursement, review our form here:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008991>

Did you have an in-district event recently? Please share your pictures! We would love to use these in future WAAN presentations and Aging Advocacy Day materials.



Family Caregiver Support

[Bryn Ceman](#), Caregiver Programs Specialist

Need to Know

September Caregiver Coordinator Meeting Materials Now Available!

-  Advocacy Update
-  Healthcare Partnerships & Best Practices: ADRC Web Referral Form
-  Badger Caregiving Clinic Overview
-  Full Recording

Wisconsin's
FamilyCaregiver
Support Programs

Find everything in one place:

<https://gwaar.org/family-caregiver-support-for-professionals>

Thank you to everyone who joined us and to our presenters for sharing their time, expertise, and resources! 

Nice to Know

Reminder: Paid Research Opportunity for Caregivers

Researchers are seeking family/friend caregivers and professionals with caregiving experience who have also advised, consulted, or collaborated on a research project.

 Paid 25–30-minute online survey

 Age 18+

 Must support/care for an adult with a long-term health condition or disability

Check eligibility & take the survey:

https://virginia.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4InqJuXFewVfWrs?Group=DL

 Questions: CaregiverCAREstudy@vumc.org |  (615) 421-4210

Please share directly with potentially eligible individuals, please do not post on social media.

Fiscal Resources and Data Management

[Carrie Kroetz](#), Data Management and Technology Coordinator

Need to Know

****Fiscal Updates****

- We have received the final 2026 allocations for Title III and will be distributing amended contracts shortly.
- The 2027 Preliminary Budget has been posted. All contracted providers are required to complete both the preliminary and final budget (when posted in the Spring). The due date for submission of the preliminary budget is November 5, 2026.
- We currently do not have a timeline to receive the 2026 transfers, but hope to have them by the September claim.

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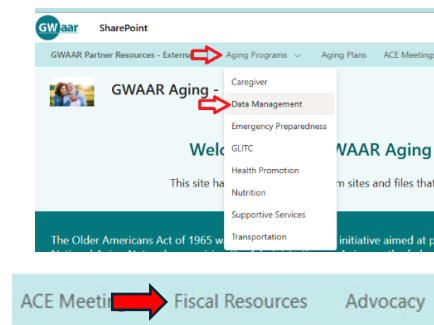
PeerPlace Review and Cleanup

GWAAR is reviewing another round of data entry errors to address as the year end is fast approaching. Continue to keep watch in the Data Management library for updated review documents. Just as a reminder, error Reports/View Builders should be run monthly to ensure accuracy in data and fiscal reporting. Please refer to the associated webinars for your program.

All webinars are recorded and posted on the GWAAR Partners Resources site and accessed by registered users.

<https://gwaar.sharepoint.com/sites/PartnerResources> | Aging Programs | Data Management

<https://gwaar.sharepoint.com/sites/PartnerResources> | Fiscal Resources



Health Promotion

Evan Ewing, Health Promotion Program Specialist

Nice to Know

September is Falls Prevention Awareness Month!

Falls Prevention Awareness Month is a national observance that encourages older adults, families, caregivers, healthcare providers, organizations, and communities to take action to reduce the risk of falls and support healthy living. Falls are a leading cause of injury among older adults, but many falls can be prevented.

Throughout September, ACL and organizations across the country raise awareness about practical prevention strategies and evidence-based programs that help older adults maintain their health, independence, and well-being.



**Falls Prevention
Awareness Month**

Here are some ways that you can get involved as an organization:

- Share falls prevention information and resources.
- Promote local falls prevention programs, classes, workshops, and events.
- Use ACL's toolkit resources in your outreach.
- Engage on social media using #FallsPrevention.

More information on Falls Prevention Awareness Month available here:

<https://acl.gov/news-and-events/events-and-observances/falls-prevention-month>

Health Promotion Training & Technical Assistance Survey:

Complete this anonymous survey to provide input on health promotion training and technical assistance! This survey was rolled out during the Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar last week and the responses will help in creating new training and technical assistance materials for health promotion.

This survey is intended for aging unit directors and health promotion coordinators. If you have an opportunity to complete the survey, it is greatly appreciated!

Survey Link: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/7H2HbA38Am>

Nutrition

[Kristi Cooley](#), Nutrition Program Specialist

[Jean Lynch](#), Program Specialist Manager

[Pam VanKampen](#), Nutrition Program & Senior Center Specialist

Need to Know

Reminder: Keep the Knocks Coming: A New Home Delivered Meals Resource

We're excited to introduce Keep the Knocks Coming, a new resource created to help local nutrition programs share the story and impact of Home Delivered Meals. The website highlights three important ways to keep the program strong: receiving meals, volunteering to deliver meals, and supporting and advocating for Home Delivered Meals.

Visit the website: <https://gwaar.org/keep-the-knocks-coming>

Be sure to watch the 7-minute video featured on the website! It brings the impact of Home Delivered Meals to life and shows how a meal delivery can be about so much more than food—it can provide nourishment, connection, safety, and peace of mind. We appreciate all the help from Eau Claire and Outagamie counties for their help in creating this video!

Watch the video: <https://youtu.be/6QImE8cweI0>

Whether you're recruiting volunteer drivers, connecting older adults with services, engaging community partners, or building support for your program, Keep the Knocks Coming provides a resource you can share to help tell the story of why every knock matters.

Visit the new website, watch the video, and help us spread the word! **Keep the Knocks Coming**



Reminder: Nutrition for Strong Bodies Virtual Training Opportunity— Registration Information

Wednesday, September 30 | 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. | Virtual

Cost: \$50 with link for the Training Curriculum that you need to print (optional \$80 with a printed curriculum shipped to you)

As shared during the July 9 Dietitian/Diet Tech Peer Sharing Call and the August 4th Stepping Up Your Nutrition Leader Call, the details are here and registration is now open for the upcoming Nutrition for Strong Bodies virtual training offered by UW–Madison Division of Extension. The training will provide you with the information and resources needed to incorporate the Nutrition for Strong Bodies curriculum into your Senior Nutrition Program. The curriculum includes eight flexible, 20-minute nutrition lessons for aging adults.

This two-hour virtual training will prepare you to use the curriculum and give you another resource for your nutrition education toolkit.

You do not need to be an RD/RDN to participate in the training or deliver the curriculum; however, you do need to complete this training if you want to offer the Nutrition for Strong Bodies curriculum.

The CPE activity application for the Nutrition for Strong Bodies Curriculum Training is pending CDR review and approval for 2 CPEUs.

View training details and registration information: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009127>

Questions? Contact Jennifer Whitty, UW–Madison Division of Extension, at jennifer.whitty@wisc.edu, or your GWAAR Nutrition Program Specialist.



Nice to Know

Reminder: Malnutrition Awareness Week: September 14–18

GWAAR is an official ambassador of ASPEN Malnutrition Awareness Week!

To help promote Malnutrition Awareness Week (MAW), visit nutritioncare.org/SpreadTheWord for a toolkit that includes social media images, infographics, and a flyer for the MAW webinars listed below. There are even Malnutrition Awareness Week stickers available as a PDF in English, Portuguese, and Spanish.

View the toolkit: <https://bit.ly/4fSodWl>

Malnutrition Awareness Week Webinars are **FREE with code MAW-GWAAR**

Registration: <https://bit.ly/4xEV6ff>

- **Sept. 16: Prehab to Post-op** – Explore how multimodal prehabilitation programs improve surgical outcomes and identify patients who benefit most.
- **Sept. 17: COPD & Malnutrition** – Understand the impact of malnutrition and muscle wasting in COPD and evidence-based nutrition interventions to improve outcomes.
- **Sept. 18: GLP-1 Medications & Malnutrition** – Discover why patients taking GLP-1 receptor agonists should be routinely screened and treated for malnutrition.



Reminder: Partnership for Food Safety toolkits available for September 18 Collective Day of Action

Every table looks different, but every table deserves to be safe. That's the idea behind this year's September 18 [Collective Day of Action](https://fightbac.org/nfsem/) theme, "Everyone's Table."

Learn more: <https://fightbac.org/nfsem/>

The [2026 Collective Day of Action Toolkit](https://fightbac.org/nfsem/) includes ready-to-use social media messages, images, newsletter text, and several ways to help promote food safety.

View the toolkit: <https://bit.ly/4gVLKVo>

They have also created a [social media toolkit](https://fightbac.org/nfsem/) to be used year-round, not just during National Food Safety Month. It covers what platforms you can use, hashtag best practices, and simple habits that can help your posts reach more people. Save it as an ongoing reference for your social media efforts.

View the social media toolkit: <https://bit.ly/4A7Gebk>



Reminder: Partnership for Food Safety webinar:

Food Safety Education In Focus: Supporting Informed Consumer Decisions

Thursday, September 17 | 1:00 p.m. **Registration:** <https://bit.ly/3UETgNe>

In recognition of September's National Food Safety Education Month, this webinar will explore consumer attitudes and behaviors related to food safety from both the 2026 International Food Information Council (IFIC) Food & Health Survey and a recent needs assessment survey of food safety, health, and nutrition educators conducted by the Partnership for Food Safety Education.

This webinar has been approved for 1 CPEU per CDR, the credentialing agency for the Academy of Nutrition And Dietetics.



Volunteerism

[Nick Musson](#), Transportation & Aging Plan Specialist

Need to Know

In case you missed it: Wisconsin Coalition for Volunteer Drivers

Volunteer driver programs play an important role in helping older adults, people with disabilities, veterans, and others get where they need to go. However, insurance practices that can result in increased premiums, changes in coverage, or other barriers are making it more difficult for programs to recruit and retain volunteer drivers.

Building on the strong response to the recent statewide volunteer driver insurance sign-on effort, GWAAR is forming the Wisconsin Coalition for Volunteer Drivers. The coalition will bring together organizations and individuals to stay informed, share experiences, support solutions, and advocate for volunteer drivers when it matters most.

Interested in joining? Organizations and individuals who support volunteer drivers and volunteer transportation are encouraged to join the Wisconsin Coalition for Volunteer Drivers.

Join here: <https://bit.ly/4j4tonN> For more information, read the article in the Advocacy section on page .

Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

Nice to Know

The Fall edition of the SMP quarterly newsletter, The Scoop is now available!

This issue of the SMP Scoop features information about Medicare's Open Enrollment Period, which runs from October 15 - December 7, 2026, and includes information about what role artificial intelligence might play in this process.

This issue also highlights expanding outreach efforts in tribal communities, information about September being National Preparedness month, an article about the many things your local library offers, what happens to your Medicare plan if you move, and so much more!

Read the Fall 2026 issue of The Scoop: <https://bit.ly/4yu5WFe>



September Scam Spotlight focuses on Wound Care/Skin Substitute fraud

Skin substitutes are legitimate medical treatments used to help certain wounds heal - but they have also become an area of concern for Medicare fraud. The September Scam Spotlight shares more information about this topic and provides some red flags to watch for.

Read the September Scam Spotlight: <https://bit.ly/3SvJwnO>

