



Volume 8, No. 40 October 6, 2026
608-243-5670 | info@gwaar.org | gwaar.org



✓ Save the date

Next ACE Meeting – October 14

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.



Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

Reminder: Fourth Quarter Virtual ACE Meeting Next Week

Wednesday, October 14 | 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Invitations were sent by Rosanna.Mazzara@gwaar.org on September 22.

View the agenda: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009159>

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



Accepting Applications: GWAAR Advisory Council

We are also looking for thoughtful, civic-minded, energetic individuals to join the GWAAR Advisory Council. Advisory Council Members are involved in a variety of activities that support aging programs including promotion of quality improvement of aging services and individual and organizational advocacy.

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Advisory Council Members are expected to maintain community relationships to promote agency visibility and help achieve agency goals. If you or someone you know are looking for a challenging volunteer opportunity where your skills can make a difference in program planning, development, and implementation – please see the following and apply. **View the application:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2005628>

If you have any questions about volunteering on the Advisory Council, please contact Nick Musson at nick.musson@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) this month 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.

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>

Reminder: WAAN and Survival Coalition Disability and Aging Issue Forum

Tuesday, October 13 | 11:00 a.m.

Join the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) and Survival Coalition on Tuesday, October 13 at 11:00 a.m. for a virtual nonpartisan policy forum. Advocates, policy experts, and coalition leaders will come together to discuss the policy issues and personal stories facing older adults and individuals with disabilities ahead of the November election. The event will focus on the erosion of civil rights protections, care infrastructure, housing, and schools.

To watch a livestream of the forum, join us at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday,

October 13 here: <https://www.youtube.com/@WPBDD> or at <https://wiseye.org/?p=33190>



Nice to Know

Reminder: National Voter Education Week 2026: How Elections Work in Wisconsin

Thursday, October 8 | 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Join the Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition on October 8 from 12:00 -1:00 p.m. for a webinar celebrating National Voter Education Week! Learn how elections work in Wisconsin, including the role of the Wisconsin Elections Commission, County and Municipal Clerks, and other election officials, like poll workers.

Registration for this free webinar here: <https://bit.ly/4yoFxcj>



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.

Emergency Preparedness

[*Evan Ewing, Health Promotion Program Specialist*](#)

Nice to Know

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

Online scams that target older adults are quite common, making it important to raise awareness of them and equip your community with tips to safeguard against them.



Here are 5 tips to improve cybersecurity from the National Council on Aging:

1. Don't click on links in emails from unfamiliar senders
2. Don't open any attachments unless you know the sender and were expecting them to send it
3. Ignore unsolicited phone calls and "robocalls"
4. Don't respond to or click on pop-up windows on your computer or cell phone
5. Don't conduct any transaction involving your personal information while using a public network

The full article and information from the National Council on Aging can be found here:

<https://www.ncoa.org/article/how-older-adults-can-improve-their-personal-cyber-security/>

Family Caregiver Support

[Bryn Ceman](#), Caregiver Programs Specialist

Nice to Know

Aging Forward Together: A Free Summit for Caregivers of Older Adults

Friday, November 6, from 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Waukesha Technical College (WCTC)
Anthony J. Natalizio Center (Building S),
800 Main Street, Pewaukee, WI 53072

Register by October 23 by going to
<http://tinyurl.com/AgingForwardTogether>

View the flyer: <https://qwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009174>

Attendees are encouraged to join for the full day, but life can be busy. You are welcome to attend for as much of the day as your schedule allows as long as you register.

The morning keynote presentation, “Self-Care for Those Who Care,” will be presented by Brittany Maas, MSW, LCSW, Assistant Teaching Professor at the University of Wisconsin–Green Bay and owner of a private counseling practice. The afternoon will end with Dan Michaels, Laughter Yoga Instructor and Health Educator of Public Health present, “Benefits of Laughter using Laughter Yoga”.

Throughout the day, attendees will have opportunities to connect with others in similar situations, visit with local resource providers (available 8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.), including the ADRC of Waukesha County, and enjoy a complimentary lunch and refreshments. Breakout Sessions throughout the day include:

- Advance Directives: Future Care Decisions
- Caring Together: Navigating Family Dynamics in Caregiving
- Taking Care of You While Taking Care of Others
- Coping with Stress Through Journaling
- Smart Supports: Simple Tech That Makes Caregiving Easier
- Identifying Scams

This event is sponsored by the ADRC of Waukesha County. If you have any specific questions, please email Sarah at spfeiffle@waukeshacounty.gov or call 262-970-6688.

Reminder: Caring Better and Braver Conference 2026

Saturday, October 24, 2026 / 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m. / UWL Health Science Building, 1300 Badger St., La Crosse

Free to attend; free parking available



Register by October 12: Call the ADRC of La Crosse County at 608-785-5700

View the flyer: <https://bit.ly/4hkHSyN>

The event is sponsored by the La Crosse County Caregiver Coalition and ADRC of La Crosse County.

Caregiver Coordinators are encouraged to share this free caregiver conference in La Crosse with family caregivers and families who may benefit.

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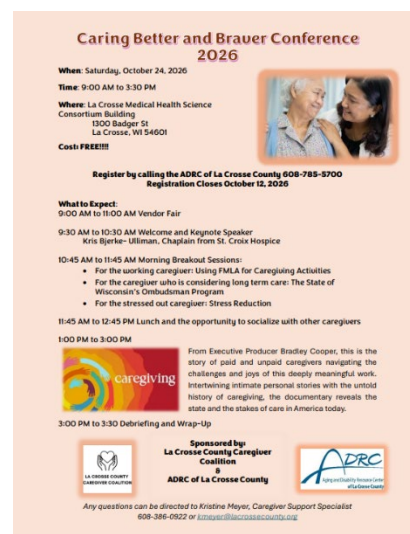


The Caring Better and Braver Conference will be held Saturday, October 24, from 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m. at the UWL Health Science Building in La Crosse. The day will offer caregivers opportunities to learn, connect with others, and focus on their own well-being.

The event includes a vendor fair, keynote presentation, lunch, and caregiver networking, along with breakout sessions on FMLA for working caregivers, Wisconsin's Ombudsman Program, and stress reduction. The afternoon will feature a screening of *Caregiving*, a documentary executive produced by Bradley Cooper that explores the experiences of paid and unpaid caregivers.

Please share with caregivers, families, and community partners in your area!

View the flyer: <https://bit.ly/4hkHSyN>



Fiscal Resources and Data Management

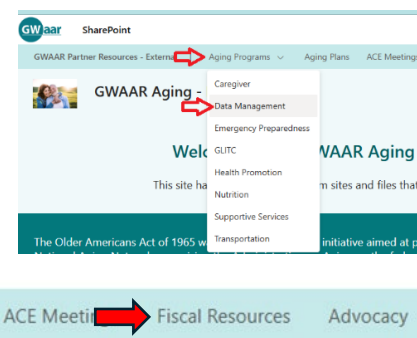
[Carrie Kroetz](#), Data Management and Technology Coordinator

Need to Know

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



Fiscal Updates

- 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 5th, 2026.
- We have received confirmation of approved transfers from the state. Once we have received the amended contract from the state GWAAR will be able to initiate Aging Unit amendment and update the allocations on the September claim form.
- We have also received the 2027 preliminary allocations. Once we receive the contract from the state we will then be able to initiate contracts.

PeerPlace Review and Cleanup

GWAAR will be posting another round of data entry errors by Wednesday to address as the year end is approaching fast. This will include IIIB, IIIC and IID reviews as before.

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“Let’s Talk Data” End-of-Year Webinar Series

Thursdays, October 8, 15, 22 & 29 | 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

We will be hosting a weekly webinar on Thursdays from October 1 to October 29 from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. to help answer questions for end of year reporting. Aging staff is always welcome to schedule time with Carrie Kroetz using her Booking App link. As a reminder, all client/service data for October 2025 through September 2026 must be accurately entered by October 31, 2026.

GWAAR Partner Resources EXT SharePoint site

We’ve recently had an issue with guest user access to our site due to a Microsoft update. We believe we have corrected the issue but if you continue to experience access issues, please email sharepointadmins@gwaar.org.

Additionally, as of October 1 any user account that has not accessed our SharePoint site within the past 6 months will be disabled and have to re-register for access if needed. This will be a regular review to disable unused accounts.

Nutrition

[Kristi Cooley](#), Nutrition Program Specialist

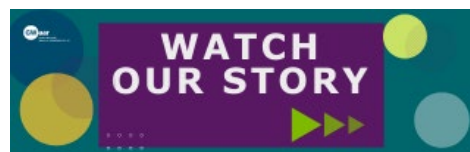
[Jean Lynch](#), Program Specialist Manager

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

Nice to Know

Keep the Knocks Coming: Share the Message!

Our new 7-minute “Keep the Knocks Coming” video highlights the vital role home-delivered meals play in supporting healthy aging, connection, and safety for older adults across Wisconsin. Please watch, share and repost the video widely to help raise awareness, build community and legislative support for home-delivered meals, and recruit volunteers—and while you’re there, share your story using the story submission tab on the website!



Watch the video and learn more: <https://gwaar.org/keep-the-knocks-coming>

Watch on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QImE8cweI0>

Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

Nice to Know

SMP Volunteer Bootcamp 2026

Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) volunteers recently took part in a Presentation Bootcamp at our Madison office, building their skills to become confident, knowledgeable and effective SMP presenters.

They practiced presentation techniques, audience engagement, and ways to make important information about Medicare fraud, errors and abuse understandable, relevant and engaging. New presenters also have the opportunity to learn from experienced volunteers before presenting on their own.

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If you have an opportunity to attend a Wisconsin SMP presentation, take advantage of it! You'll learn practical information that can help you—and those you care about—prevent, detect and report Medicare fraud, errors and abuse. And if you or someone you know enjoys helping others, sharing information and making a difference in your community, consider becoming an SMP volunteer or sharing the SMP volunteer opportunity!

Learn more about Wisconsin SMP volunteering: www.smpwi.org/volunteer

Share this on Facebook: <https://bit.ly/4j7QvOu>

October Scam Spotlight focuses on Medicare Open Enrollment

The October Scam Spotlight focuses on Medicare's Open Enrollment Period, which runs from October 15 - December 7 each year. The spotlight provides some red flags to watch for and ways Medicare beneficiaries can protect themselves during this time of year.

Read the October 2026 Scam Spotlight: <https://bit.ly/4jHadkf>



The poster is titled "Wisconsin SMP SCAM SPOTLIGHT" with a spotlight icon. Below the title is the heading "DON'T LET THE SCAMMERS CHOOSE YOU!". A paragraph explains that Open Enrollment gives people with Medicare an opportunity to review their coverage, but also brings an increase in calls, texts, and advertisements from scammers and misleading marketers. The poster is divided into three main sections: "WATCH FOR THESE RED FLAGS" (listing five warning signs), "PROTECT YOURSELF" (listing three protective actions), and "REMEMBER" (a reminder to never give out Medicare numbers to unexpected callers). At the bottom, it provides contact information for the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol and acknowledges funding from the U.S. Administration for Community Living.

Wisconsin SMP
SCAM SPOTLIGHT

DON'T LET THE SCAMMERS CHOOSE YOU!

Open Enrollment gives people with Medicare an opportunity to review their coverage. It also brings an increase in calls, texts, and advertisements from scammers and misleading marketers. They may promise "new Medicare benefits," grocery or flex cards, money back, or other extras to get your Medicare number or personal information.

WATCH FOR THESE RED FLAGS

- Someone says they need to **VERIFY YOUR MEDICARE NUMBER** or send you a "new" Medicare card.
- A caller threatens that your **BENEFITS WILL BE CANCELED** unless you act immediately.
- You're pressured to **SWITCH MEDICARE PLANS RIGHT AWAY**.
- Someone offers **FREE BENEFITS, MONEY, OR GIFT CARDS** for your Medicare information.
- A salesperson comes to your home **WITHOUT AN INVITATION** to sell you a Medicare plan.

PROTECT YOURSELF

- Treat your Medicare number like a credit card number.
- Don't give your number to someone who contacts you unexpectedly.
- Take your time, ask questions, and don't let anyone pressure you into changing your coverage.

REMEMBER

Legitimate plan benefits vary. Never give your Medicare number to an unexpected caller just to find out what you may qualify for.

SMP
Senior Medicare Patrol
Preventing Medicare Fraud

If you receive a suspicious Medicare call or think your Medicare number has been compromised, contact:
Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol
888-818-2611 | smp-wi@gwaar.org | www.smpwi.org

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