The SMP SCOOP

PROTECT DETECT REPORT

SUMMER 2026

The Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Scoop is prepared by the GWAAR SMP Team to help Medicare beneficiaries and their advocates prevent, detect, and report health care fraud, abuse, and errors.

Please feel free to share this publication with others who may benefit from its contents.

TO CONTACT WI SMP

Call: (888) 818-2611

E-mail: smp-wi@gwaar.org

Website: www.smpwi.org

Facebook: @WisconsinSeniorMedicarePatrol

To subscribe, please send us an e-mail.

GWaar
Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc.

SMP
Senior Medicare Patrol
Preventing Medicare Fraud

Helping Wisconsinites Prevent Medicare Fraud – Together

By Ingrid Kundinger, SMP Program Director

June 1–5, 2026, marks the 5th annual Medicare Fraud Prevention Week, a nationwide effort led by the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) to empower beneficiaries, caregivers, and communities to prevent, detect, and report Medicare fraud, errors, and abuse.

While this week brings national attention to the issue, Medicare fraud is not limited to a single moment in time. Scammers are constantly adapting their tactics, which makes it more important than ever for beneficiaries, caregivers, and communities to stay informed and alert all year long.

That's where the idea of "together" comes in. Preventing Medicare fraud isn't just the job of one person or one organization, it takes all of us working together. Whether it's protecting your own information or helping a neighbor recognize a scam, every action makes a difference.



How You Can Be Part of the Solution:

Protect your personal information. Your Medicare number is valuable – guard it like you would a credit card. Don't share it with unsolicited callers or unknown individuals.

Detect problems early. Carefully review your Medicare Summary Notices (MSNs) or Explanation of Benefits (EOBs) for charges or services you don't recognize.

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The Wisconsin SMP program is supported, in part by grant number 90MPPG0102-01-00, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Administration for Community Living policy.

Helping Wisconsinites Prevent Medicare Fraud – Together *continued from page 1*

Report concerns. If something doesn't look right, trust your instincts. The Wisconsin SMP is here to help – call (888) 818-2611 with questions or concerns.

Want to learn more? The Wisconsin SMP offers free presentations and outreach opportunities for community groups across the state. Our trained staff and volunteers are passionate about helping others learn how to protect themselves and their Medicare benefits.

This Medicare Fraud Prevention Week, we encourage you to take an active role. By staying informed, asking questions, and looking out for one another, we can strengthen our communities and help stop fraud before it starts.

Stronger Together: Expanding SMP Outreach in Tribal Communities

By Carri Chapman and Jenise Swartley, GLITC Program Specialists





We have been very busy since stepping into our roles as Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) representatives. In March, we brought our *Slam the Scam Bingo* outreach events to the Bad River and Lac du Flambeau Tribal communities, where participants were able to learn about Medicare fraud prevention in a fun, engaging, and interactive way.

In April, we collaborated with another Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council program – the AmeriCorps Senior Companion Program – which is made up of Elder volunteers dedicated to supporting other Elders within their communities. This partnership allowed us to broaden our outreach and strengthen connections with Elders through trusted peer relationships.

The bingo outreach events have been extremely popular and well received. In addition to Bad River and Lac du Flambeau, we have also reached the Red Cliff and Sokaogon Chippewa communities. We are excited to share that several additional outreach opportunities are currently being explored, with plans to continue this work throughout the summer.

In June, we will provide Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) outreach to Tribal Elders attending the Great Lakes Native American Elders Association (GLNAEA) conference at the Menominee Casino Resort.

Digging Into Wellness: The Health Benefits of Gardening for Older Adults

By Susan Krolow, SMP Volunteer Coordinator

Gardening is more than just a hobby – it's a powerful way for older adults to support healthy aging while enjoying the beauty of nature. Whether tending a backyard vegetable garden, planting flowers in containers, or simply pulling weeds and watering plants, gardening offers physical, mental, and emotional benefits that can improve overall well-being.

A Natural Way to Stay Active

Gardening encourages movement through activities like digging, planting, watering, and pruning. These motions help improve flexibility, strength, balance, and coordination. Even light gardening tasks can provide low-impact exercise that supports joint health and mobility. Regular physical activity can also help reduce the risk of chronic conditions such as heart disease, high blood pressure, and diabetes.

Boosting Mental Health and Reducing Stress

Spending time outdoors and connecting with nature has been shown to reduce stress and improve mood. Gardening can provide a sense of calm, purpose, and accomplishment. Many older adults find that caring for plants helps ease feelings of anxiety, loneliness, or depression. Watching something grow from seed to harvest can be deeply rewarding and uplifting.



Supporting Brain Health

Gardening engages the mind through planning, problem-solving, and learning. Remembering planting schedules, caring for different plants, and maintaining a garden can help keep the brain active and stimulated. Some studies suggest that regular gardening activities may even help reduce the risk of cognitive decline.



Encouraging Healthy Eating

For seniors, growing vegetables, herbs, or fruits can lead to healthier eating habits. Fresh produce from the garden is nutritious, flavorful, and often encourages people to eat more fruits and vegetables. Gardening can also increase appreciation for where food comes from and inspire healthier meal choices.

Creating Social Connections

Community gardens and gardening clubs offer opportunities for social interaction and friendship. Sharing gardening tips, exchanging plants, or working alongside others can help reduce isolation and foster meaningful connections. Gardening can also become a wonderful multigenerational activity to enjoy with children and grandchildren.

Gardening Safely

While gardening has many benefits, it's important for older adults to garden safely:

- Stretch before and after gardening
- Use lightweight tools with easy-grip handles
- Stay hydrated
- Wear sunscreen and a hat
- Take breaks when needed
- Consider raised garden beds or container gardening to reduce bending and strain

Gardening reminds us that growth, renewal, and beauty can flourish at every age. Whether planting a single flowerpot or cultivating a full garden, spending time with plants is a simple and enjoyable way to support healthy aging – one seed at a time.

New Crypto Kiosk Law Stops Criminals in Their Tracks

Consumer Protections Now in Place to Help Wisconsinites

Resourced from AARP • Published April 16, 2026



Governor Tony Evers signed bipartisan cryptocurrency kiosk consumer protection legislation, supported by AARP Wisconsin, into law on April 8, 2026.

The new law, authored by Rep. Pat Snyder (R-Weston), Rep. Steve Doyle (D-Onalaska), and Senator Jesse James (R-Thorp), prevents Wisconsinites from having their life savings stolen by criminals using crypto kiosks (also called crypto ATMs).

Americans had $333 million stolen from them by crypto kiosk scams in 2025 alone.

Key provisions of the new Wisconsin law:

- Limits crypto kiosk transactions to $1,000 per user per day, preventing large-scale theft
- Requires kiosk operators to refund scam victims who make a report within 30 days
- Crypto kiosk customers must receive detailed transaction receipts
- Fraud warning signs must be added to all crypto kiosk machines
- Crypto kiosk operators need a Wisconsin money transmitter license

"We applaud our Senators for taking action to prevent crimes committed daily at more than 700 cryptocurrency kiosks across Wisconsin," said AARP Wisconsin State Director Raj Shukla. "This bill protects consumers from scammers who use, lie and cheat to steal an entire life savings in minutes using crypto kiosks."

"No one should have to worry about being manipulated by criminals hiding behind a screen," Shukla said. "The overwhelming evidence shows these machines are almost exclusively used to steal millions of dollars from consumers. This law goes a long way towards stopping that from happening," Shukla said.

If you or someone you know is the victim of a scam involving a cryptocurrency kiosk, contact the kiosk operator and law enforcement immediately. Under the law, a report must be made to both law enforcement and the crypto kiosk operator within 30 days to receive a refund. Be sure to keep records of contact from the criminals, as well as your receipts, to aid law enforcement in their investigation.

Not sure where to turn after experiencing a scam? Contact the AARP Fraud Watch Network™ Helpline at (877) 908-3360.

BBB Scam Alert: Need a New Driveway? Look Out for Asphalt Paving Scams

By Lisa Schiller, Senior Director, Investigations and Media Relations, Wisconsin BBB



Don't trust just anyone to do the job if your driveway needs paving or repairs. BBB Scam Tracker has numerous reports of unscrupulous contractors who trick homeowners with supposedly good deals on driveway paving and repairs. Homeowners end up with shoddy pavement, or nothing at all, to show for what they paid, and, in some cases, have lost over $8,000.

How the Scam Works

A contractor shows up at the door. They claim they've been doing work in the area and have extra paving supplies and just happened to notice the condition of your driveway or sidewalk. Since they're already working nearby, they can give you a discount. If the price is agreeable, they will ask for a large percentage – or all – of the fee upfront. There is some hesitancy if you ask questions about the price or details about the business and its location.

Once the transaction is complete, the scam contractor may disappear altogether. The contact number or email may not work, quickly helping you realize the contact information was a sham. If you protest, the contractor may use intimidation tactics, such as threatening a lawsuit, to convince you to pay.

In other cases, the contractor's work is shoddy and unprofessional once complete, but the full payment has been made. Reaching the company the contractor allegedly represented is impossible, or another company was impersonated. In any of these scenarios, the chances of getting a refund or the work fixed are slim.

One consumer reported losing $5,000 on a paving scam via BBB Scam Tracker: "Paving driveway with recycled asphalt, came and put down crushed gravel and left. Said the crew was finishing a house around the corner and they'd come back but never did."

How to Avoid Contractor Scams

- **Be wary of unsolicited offers.** Most scams involving contractors begin when a random contractor goes out of their way to offer you an estimate that was never requested. Be extra cautious if the estimate is "discounted."
- **Research companies and contractors before you hire.** Before you agree to hire a contractor and make payment, check free company reports with BBB.org. Read any filed complaints as well as customer reviews. Also, a simple internet search often reveals companies or individuals involved in fraudulent activities or whom provided unsatisfactory work to previous clients. Read BBB's tips on hiring a reliable contractor.
- **Get everything in writing.** Ask for an estimate in writing before payment is even discussed. Don't let a contractor start working on a project until a written, signed contract outlining start and complete dates; a detailed description of the work, material costs, payment arrangements, and warranty information is provided. Read more about what to ensure is included in your home improvement contract.

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BBB Scam Alert: Need a New Driveway? Look Out for Asphalt Paving Scams *continued from page 5*

- **Stagger payments.** Most contractors will require a percentage of the total price upfront, but it should never be the full price before the work has begun. Instead, agree to stagger payments so that work can be inspected at various project stages.
- **Use safe payment methods.** Paying with a credit card provides peace of mind since the credit card company will help you if the company is fraudulent. If you use a check, write it to a company, not an individual. Paying cash or using an electronic wallet app is risky since there is no way to stop the payment or get some money back if anything goes wrong.

For more information

If you suspect you have fallen for a contractor scam, report it to BBB.org/ScamTracker. Your report can help alert others to similar scams.

Sign up for BBB Scam Alerts.

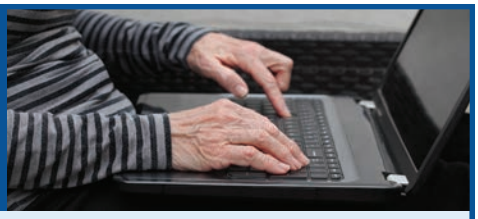


IMPORTANT RESOURCES FOR WISCONSIN MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES

- Benefit Specialists at local **Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs)** and aging units in every county and tribe offer benefits counseling. For contact information, visit www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/benefit-specialists/counties.htm
- Contact **Medicare** directly by calling **(800) 633-4227** or visiting https://www.medicare.gov
- The **Medigap Helpline (800) 242-1060** is a toll-free helpline operated by the Wisconsin Board on Aging and Long-Term Care that provides counseling for all Wisconsin Medicare beneficiaries on Medicare, Medicare supplement insurance, employer-based health insurance, Medicare Advantage plans, long-term care insurance, and related topics.
- The **Wisconsin Medigap Part D and Prescription Drug Helpline (855) 677-2783** is a toll-free helpline that answers questions from Wisconsin residents aged 60 and over about Medicare Part D and other prescription drug coverage options.
- **Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing video phone (262) 347-3045** provides outreach and individual counseling in American Sign Language.
- **Legal Action of Wisconsin (855) 947-2529** provides outreach and benefits counseling to low-income persons living in Northern Wisconsin and Native Americans statewide.
- The **Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol (888) 818-2611** has a toll-free helpline for Medicare beneficiaries and their families to call to report suspected Medicare fraud, errors, and abuse.

What's the "Scoop"?

By Ingrid Kundinger, SMP Program Director



Winter in Wisconsin was challenging this year, and spring arrived with lots of severe weather in numerous parts of the state. Let's hope that summer is the beautiful season that we've come to know and love, allowing us to enjoy the many things that a Wisconsin summer has to offer!

Here's the Scoop: We are continuing to encourage Medicare beneficiaries to create a Medicare.gov account to review claims in a timelier manner than waiting for the paper Medicare Summary Notice to arrive every 6 months. The fraudsters hope you wait; the Senior Medicare Patrol hopes you don't!

Creating a Medicare.gov Account

There are a few options for you to choose from when setting up your Medicare.gov account. You can now create or log in to your secure Medicare account using:

• ID.me • CLEAR® • Login.gov

Each of these services are free and secure ways to verify your identity. Verifying your identity is a way to prevent fraud and make sure you are the only person who can access your information.

Please set aside some time to go through this process if you haven't already. This link provides helpful information and resources for each of the options listed above: www.medicare.gov/account/login/help

Once You Create a Medicare.gov Account

When you log on to your account, you will be prompted by "What do you want to do?". There are options for you to consider, which include:

- **Check my claims:** each time a claim is posted to your Medicare account, you will receive an email notification that a claim has been posted. This is the section where you can check your claims in a timely manner and report any concerns to the SMP right away.
- **Get my electronic Medicare Summary Notices (eMSNs):** an option that allows you to receive monthly eMSNs to allow you to keep track of important claim information and call the SMP right away if you have concerns.
- **Get my Medicare card:** an option to be able to reprint your Medicare card if it was misplaced.
- **Pay my premium**
- **Edit my account settings**
- **Open all options**

We encourage you to take some time to review all the functions that are available to you with your Medicare.gov account.

Stay Informed and Protect Yourself

Having an online account allows you to check for possible errors or suspicious charges quickly. Reviewing your claims regularly is one of the easiest ways to spot and report potential Medicare fraud, errors, or abuse.

If you notice something that doesn't look right, contact the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) for help.

Here's the Scoop on how you can reach us:

Call: (888) 818-2611

E-mail: smp-wi@gwaar.org

Website: www.smpwi.org

Facebook: @WisconsinSeniorMedicarePatrol

Supporting Healthy Aging From the Inside Out: Why Gut Health Matters

Resourced by WIHA Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging



Protecting our health often means focusing on heart health, mobility, memory, and independence. But one powerful and often overlooked factor connects them all: gut health.

The gut microbiome – the trillions of bacteria living in our digestive tract – plays a critical role in digestion, immune function, inflammation regulation, metabolism, and even brain health. A diverse and balanced gut microbiome helps regulate blood sugar, supports cardiovascular and immune health, and keeps your digestive system working well.

This is very important as we age. Chronic inflammation and metabolic imbalances are key drivers of many chronic conditions. A healthy gut can help reduce inflammation, strengthen the immune system, and support metabolic health – all essential for maintaining resilience and independence.

How Whole, Minimally Processed Foods Help

One of the simplest and most effective ways to support gut health is to eat whole, minimally processed foods. Highly processed foods are often low in fiber and high in added sugars and refined ingredients. Research has linked high consumption of ultra-processed foods with increased risk of cardiovascular disease and other chronic conditions.

Whole foods provide the fiber and nutrients that feed beneficial gut bacteria and help your microbiome thrive.

Key Takeaways for Healthy Aging

- **Eat a variety of whole foods:** Vegetables, fruits, whole grains, lean proteins (like fish, chicken or turkey breasts, eggs, tofu, and/or legumes), and healthy fats (such as olive oil, avocado, nuts, and some dairy) support a diverse and healthy gut microbiome.
- **Choose balanced dietary patterns:** Overall eating patterns support gut health better than focusing on single "superfoods" or supplements.
- **Minimize ultra-processed foods:** Packaged and highly processed foods can reduce microbial diversity and promote inflammation.
- **Each person has unique food preferences and potential sensitivities:** It is helpful to explore what is best for your individual health by working with a dietician in order to determine your unique situation and dietary requirements.

Dietary patterns rich in whole, minimally processed foods are consistently associated with lower risk of heart disease, diabetes, and other chronic conditions – all central to healthy aging.

Bottom Line

Healthy aging isn't just about adding years to life – it's about adding life to years. While each person has unique nutritional needs, nourishing your gut with whole, minimally processed foods is a simple, practical, evidence-based step toward staying active, engaged, and independent.

Generational Differences: Are They a Myth?

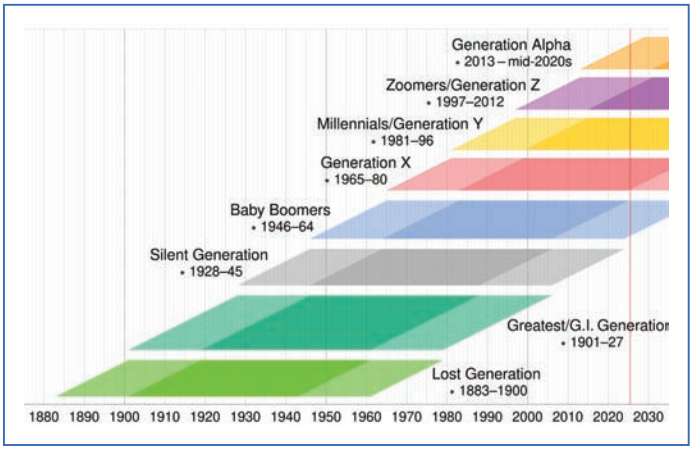
By the GWAAR Legal Services Team

Differences between generations are talked about in popular culture and the workplace, from communication styles and work ethics to dating preferences and life goals. But as we know, stereotypes can be harmful. There has been a shift in attitude toward the concept of "generations" lately, with the Pew Research Center noting that arbitrary labels for generational cutoffs have no scientific basis.

In *The Myth Of Generational Differences: Why It's Time To Drop The Labels*, Forbes discusses how reducing people to generational differences decreases trust, is divisive, and prevents the formation of genuine relationships. This is true whether in the workplace, your family, or your social networks. Also, the *Wall Street Journal* debunks myths in *Age Is but a Number: 8 Generational Myths to Rethink*. Myths examined include that older generations don't use social media, or that only older generations use coupons and discounts. While focused on customers and marketing, the article shows that assumptions about people based on generations may unnecessarily narrow a pool of people or lead to you discounting someone for a project or group that would bring value.

A study, *Generations and Generational Differences: Debunking Myths in Organizational Science and Practice and Paving New Paths Forward*, busts myths such as "generational explanations are obvious," "talking about generations is largely benign," and "generations are easy to study." So where does that leave us if we want to move away from generational stereotypes?

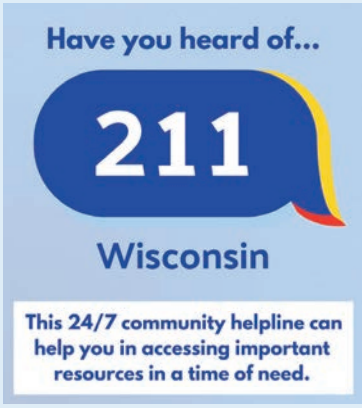
Use what you know about specific individuals to enhance your relationship with them. If stereotypes say that Gen Z will only text, but your grandchild loves to call or Facetime, let that guide how you communicate with them. Take advantage of the opportunity to participate in intergenerational groups or activities. *Better Connecting the Generations Could Change the World* talks about the potential for younger and older people working together to tackle societal problems like climate change, improve work, and



strengthen marginalized communities. Focus on shared experiences and behaviors. We are all individuals with strengths that can be used to benefit each other in the home, at work or school, and in the community.

Potential activities for younger and older people to do together are numerous, from genealogy and storytelling to cooking and gardening. There are opportunities for everyone to learn new skills and teach each other. Check out *Resources on Intergenerational Practice – #AWorld4AllAges – Global Campaign to Combat Ageism* for info on how to connect with people of all ages and reduce harmful stereotypes.

If you find the concept of generational differences hard to give up, explore learning from other generations and how to improve yourself using traits of others. The Guardian's *Get Money Confident – From Boomer Frugality to Gen Z Fintech: My Week of Intergenerational Finance Hacks* from *Get Money Confident* in The Guardian explores the different financial practices of younger and older generations. The author learned a lot through her week of exploration and ultimately concluded that "there is something we could all learn from listening to each other on any topic." This is probably the best approach to community and relationships for all of us. Approach younger and older generations with curiosity and openness, rather than letting stereotypes keep you away from potential connections and learning opportunities.



What is 2-1-1? *By the GWAAR Legal Services Team*

In 2000, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) designated 211 as the 3-digit number for information and referrals to social services and other assistance. In Wisconsin, 211 is powered by eight regional contact centers. These regional contact centers and the counties they serve are listed below. To get help, you can contact one of these regional centers directly or simply dial 211 on your landline or cellphone.

You can also access 211 services by texting your zip code to 989211 or by visiting https://211wisconsin.communityos.org .

REGIONAL CENTERS

211 Wisconsin Collaborative | 608-246-8272
Counties served: Buffalo, Chippewa, Crawford, Douglas, Eau Claire, Florence, Forest, Grant, Jackson, La Crosse, Langlade, Marinette, Menominee, Monroe, Oconto, Richland, Shawano, Trempealeau, Vernon

IMPACT | 866-211-3380
Counties served: Dodge, Jefferson, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha

United Way of Dane County | 608-246-4357
Counties served: Columbia, Dane, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, Rock, Sauk

United Way of Marathon County | 715-848-2255
Counties served: Brown, Door, Lincoln, Kewaunee, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas

United Way of South Wood and Adams Counties | 715-421-0390
Counties served: Adams, Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Clark, Iron, Juneau, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, Washburn, Wood

United Way Fox Cities | 800-924-5514
Counties served: Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Manitowoc, Marquette, Outagamie, Sheboygan, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago

United Way St. Croix and Red Cedar Valleys | 715-377-0203
Counties served: Burnett, Dunn, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, St. Croix

SOCIAL SERVICES/ASSISTANCE

- Aging & Disability Services
- Child & Youth
- Clothing & Household Goods
- Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault
- Employment, Education & Income Assistance
- Food
- Health & Dental
- Hotlines, Helplines & Warmlines
- Housing & Shelter
- Human Trafficking Survivors & Victims
- Legal & Law Enforcement
- Mental Health
- Previously Incarcerated Individuals
- Substance Use
- Tax Assistance
- Transportation
- Utilities
- Veterans ... *and more!*

Considerations When Deciding Whether to Retire

By the GWAAR Legal Services Team



Deciding when or whether to retire can be daunting. Many people immediately think of financial considerations when evaluating the prospect of retirement, which makes sense. But there are additional things to think about as well when faced with such a big decision. Here are some tips to consider.

What will your financial picture look like if you retire?

Think about any savings accounts, retirement savings accounts like 401ks or pensions, and any nonemployment income you will have, such as Social Security. Consider consulting with a financial advisor or using an online tool such as a pension calculator to get an idea of your financial situation. If you need assistance accessing benefits from employer-sponsored retirement plans, contact the Upper Midwest Pension Project at Trellis Pension and Retirement Rights. To learn more, please see: https://trellisconnects.org/programs/trellis-pension-and-retirement-rights/

Consider big expenses and how you will pay for them

Health care can be a huge expense, especially as we get older. Will you qualify for Medicare and/or Medicaid, or some other form of subsidized health insurance? Will you have retiree health insurance offered to employees by your employer? If you plan to use the Marketplace for private insurance, have you looked at estimated costs for someone in your situation? Make sure to keep potential prescription drugs in mind, as that can add to the cost. See the fact sheet: *Medicare decisions for those over 65 and planning to retire in the next 6 months* https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Find-Your-Provider-Type/Employers-and-Unions/FS4-Medicare-for-people-over-65-nearing-retirment.pdf

What will your living situation be like in the near future?

If you own a home, do you anticipate wanting or being able to continue living there for the foreseeable future? Think about what you would do if you were unable to continue living in your current home, whether for health, financial, or other reasons. If you are renting, make sure you take that expense into account when estimating your monthly retirement budget.

Do you have others who have depended on, or will depend on, support from you?

It can be easy to forget about family members or friends who ask for assistance, but giving or lending someone money can quickly add up. You may need to consider setting boundaries with loved ones if you pursue retirement and expect to have lower income.

SMP Volunteers Gather for Inspiring Spring Retreat



By Susan Krolow, SMP Volunteer Coordinator

In April, our Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) volunteers came together for a meaningful and energizing Volunteer Retreat filled with learning, laughter, collaboration, and celebration. The retreat provided an opportunity for volunteers from across the state to reconnect, strengthen their knowledge, and continue building the strong network that supports SMP's mission of protecting older adults from Medicare fraud, errors, and abuse.

Throughout the retreat, volunteers participated in engaging presentations and discussions focused on fraud prevention, outreach strategies, and community impact. Guest speakers shared valuable insights and real-world experiences that reinforced the important role SMP volunteers play in educating and empowering Medicare beneficiaries.

In addition to educational sessions, the retreat offered time for volunteers to connect with one another, exchange ideas, and celebrate the incredible work being done in communities throughout Wisconsin. Whether through group activities, brainstorming sessions, or casual conversations, the event highlighted the passion and dedication that make our volunteer team so special.

One of the most memorable moments of the retreat was the presentation of a special "check" recognizing the tremendous value of volunteer service contributed by Wisconsin SMP volunteers. In 2025, SMP volunteers dedicated an incredible 6,436 hours of service to communities across the state. Using the Independent Sector's nationally recognized value of volunteer time calculation, those hours represent an astounding $218,824 contribution to the State of Wisconsin.

The presentation served as a powerful reminder that the impact of volunteerism extends far beyond numbers. Every presentation delivered, outreach table staffed, phone call answered, and beneficiary





assisted contributes to protecting Medicare and supporting older adults throughout Wisconsin. The dedication, compassion, and commitment shown by our volunteers continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of so many.

We are incredibly grateful to all who attended, presented, and helped make the retreat such a success. Your commitment, enthusiasm, and willingness to serve continue to make a lasting impact.

Thank you to our SMP volunteers for all that you do – we look forward to another impactful year ahead!



Outreach Activities



Volunteers attended the 2026 Family Generations Expo in Oak Creek, Wisconsin



Volunteers participated on the Caregiver Resource Fair in Wausau, Wisconsin



SMP staff attended the Bayfield and Ashland Counties Nonprofit and Volunteer Fair in Ashland, Wisconsin



Volunteers participated in the Bloomer Senior Resource Fair in Bloomer, Wisconsin

Outreach Activities



Volunteers attended the Senior Resource Fair in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin



SMP volunteers shared information at the 2026 Health & Wellness Fair in Gays Mills, Wisconsin



Volunteers attended the GLNAEA Quarterly Meeting at the Menominee Casino Resort



SMP staff gave a presentation to residents of the Bridge Lake Point-Waunona Neighborhood Center in Madison, Wisconsin

Outreach Activities



Volunteers participated in the Senior Fair at the Ho-Chunk Casino in Baraboo, Wisconsin



An SMP volunteer gave a presentation to members of The Landing Senior Center, in Wausau, Wisconsin



SMP was represented at the Waunakee Wellness and Energy Fair in Waunakee, Wisconsin



SMP participated in the Douglas County Power of Attorney Event in Lake Nebagamon, Wisconsin

SMP
Senior Medicare Patrol
Preventing Medicare Fraud

1414 MacArthur Road, Suite A
Madison, WI 53714

PRSRT STD
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HOSPICE CARE FRAUD SCHEMES

- Falsely saying that a patient is terminally ill
- Documenting the patient needs "crisis care" to receive the highest reimbursement rates when they don't need it
- Giving gifts to beneficiaries so they agree to hospice care (even though they are unlikely terminally ill)

(888) 818-2611

www.smpwi.org

SUPPORTED BY GRANT # 90MPRC0002 FROM ACL

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Preventing Medicare Fraud