

*Happy
Holidays*



— AND A —
JOYFUL NEW YEAR

Greetings:

I would like to THANK all of you for making this a successful year! And I hope that you enjoy receiving your monthly newsletter as much as we enjoy putting it together for you to read. I really like learning more about each and every one of you in the Senior Medicare Patrol volunteer spotlight section of the newsletter!



Take some time to relax and enjoy this holiday season and after the holidays we will come back relaxed and refreshed.

Beginning with our January 2021 meeting, we will start our “group training” to prepare us to present in the community. Soon you will receive your packets of flyers. We will use these flyers to put together our community presentations.

Enjoy your holiday and Happy New Year to you and your families.

- Beth Nelson
Director, NYS SMP

VOLUNTEERS

Make a difference in your community—**Hear from SMP Volunteer Michele Rogers**

REMINDERS



If you missed the December 1st Teach in featuring SMP Director Beth Nelson and Outreach Counselor Leslie Sierra, you can view it online [HERE](#)

The StateWide 2020 Virtual Convention is also online if you want to view the recordings or presentations [HERE](#)

Take a look at our new Genetic Testing Scam Flyer [HERE](#)

SCAM ALERT—VACCINES

Despite what we are hearing and reading in the news, the COVID-19 vaccine is still **NOT** available. When an FDA approved vaccine does become available, **it will be free for everyone.** This vaccine will be Federally Funded through the CARES Act.

When an FDA approved vaccine becomes available:

1. You should only get a vaccine from **YOUR DOCTOR.**
2. Do **NOT** respond to calls requesting personal information or click on links from social media or emails.

At this time, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is planning the order in which groups of people will be eligible to receive the vaccine.

In the meantime, remember to stay socially distant, wash your hands and wear a face mask to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 Virus.

UPDATE: Governor Cuomo announced on Dec. 2 that New York State will receive an initial delivery of enough COVID-19 vaccine doses for 170,000 New Yorkers. If all safety and efficacy approvals are granted by the federal government, the state expects to receive the vaccines which were created by Pfizer—on DEC 15. NYS expects additional allocations of vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna later this month.

Source: governor.ny.gov



Meet SMP Volunteer Michele Rogers

I have been a HIICAP Counselor volunteering through the Westchester Library System for over 11 years. I was trained by the Medicare Rights Center (MRC) and numerous programs offered to counselors, by the library.

The Senior Medicare Patrol has been of interest to me for a few years, but work and other volunteer commitments did not allow any time for additional responsibilities. When the COVID-19 shut down came in March, it seemed like the perfect opportunity to join, take the required test and start following all of the extremely informative monthly meetings & Teach Ins.

Unfortunately, we are still not "out and about" talking to Seniors in the library or other events. Open Enrollment & COVID-19 have opened the door to many problems: Scammers have taken further advantage of seniors by finding numerous new ways to get their personal information, extort money or sell them unneeded products.

On the good side, as a counselor, I speak with old and new clients about their 2021 Drug Plans, I also take this opportunity to speak and send printed information on the scams and safe practices Seniors must follow during this time.

- Michele Rogers, (Somers, NY)
NYS SMP volunteer since May 2020

STATE  WIDE

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