



## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2021 is here and so is the long awaited COVID-19 vaccine. Although it might be awhile before it is our turn to receive the vaccine, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

The federal government has given authority to the states to come up with vaccine distribution plans. While we await for a definitive plan in NYS, please check back with StateWide & your local health department to find out the latest policies in your county.

We compiled a list of sources (on back) that provide more information on vaccine eligibility and distribution. The vaccine will soon be available to all & is funded by the CARES Act.

Our first meeting of the new year will be on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 11:00 AM. I hope to see you there! By now you should have received your packet of flyers, that we will use to give you more information when you are out speaking to the public. So, roll up your sleeves, and get ready for a great 2021!

Regards,

Beth Nelson, Director NYS SMP

## VOLUNTEERS

Make a difference in your community—**Hear from SMP Volunteer Alan Bey**

## REMINDERS



Join us for the January SMP Volunteer Meeting on JAN. 15th, 11:00 AM

- To join by computer Click [HERE](#).
- To join by phone dial 646-558-8656, Meeting ID: 871 6175 7204#

If you would like to view past issues of our SMP Monthly, Click [HERE](#).

**Please wear a mask, social distance and avoid small and large gatherings.**



**Medicare Fraud Helpline 800-333-4374**



## COVID-19 Vaccine Information

Here are some important links, apps and flyers for you to read and share with your community.

- [COVID-19 Vaccine: Get the Facts \(ny.gov\)](#)
- If you want to find out if you are eligible for a vaccine, Click [HERE](#) and complete a questionnaire. (ny.gov)
- Governor Cuomo Updates New Yorkers on the **State's Vaccination Administration Plan**. Click [HERE](#) to read more.
- Sign up [HERE](#) for vaccine and COVID-19 Updates (ny.gov)
- You can download our latest flyers on [Vaccine Scams](#), Contract Tracing, Tele health, DME and Ambulance Fraud. Visit our website [HERE](#)



### IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- No one will call you about the vaccine and ask for your personal information.
- You should only get a vaccine from a trusted source such as your doctor.
- Don't click on social media posts, texts or email links selling cures.
- Your NYS Senior Medicare Patrol can help if you have concerns about COVID-19 Fraud and Vaccine Scams. **Call 800-333-4374.**



## Meet SMP Volunteer Alan Bey

When I retired in 2017, I wanted to do four things: play with my grandchildren, teach, travel, and give back to our community, especially to vulnerable

populations. These things I have managed to do, and will hopefully continue to do for years to come.

Teaching and volunteering came together in many forms, including the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP). SMP puts me in front of groups of seniors and allows me a peer-to-peer forum to communicate important, sometimes vital, information. Often, the Q & A sessions include topics other than fraud and abuse, such as Social Security strategy or Medicare claims, and I am able to deliver information from my healthcare experiences. I find these interactions with the audience to be fulfilling and satisfying.

I also conduct programs for My Money Workshop (MMW), which provides various audiences with basic financial management tools, tips and techniques. Up until the time COVID-19 occurred, I was tutoring two high school students via another not-for-profit called Yonkers Partners in Education. I am a trustee of the Scarsdale Public Library, a mentor for the Service Core of Retired Executives ("S.C.O.R.E."), and a horticultural volunteer at the NY Botanical Gardens.

There is a balance to be had between what I have to transmit to others and the pleasure I get from so doing. As an example, last year, as a volunteer, I helped a young woman get a job, open a bank account, get a credit card, & later find an apartment. This allowed her to leave the drug rehab facility she was living in and return to a life in the community. To me, no paid job could give me that kind of satisfaction.

- Alan Bey, NYS SMP Volunteer since Sept., 2018

# STATE WIDE

**New York StateWide Senior Action Council, Inc.**  
275 State Street, Albany, NY 12210 • 800-333-4374 • Fax (518) 436-7642  
[www.nysenior.org](http://www.nysenior.org)