

New York StateWide Senior Action Council

MEMBER UPDATE

SUMMER 2022



Maria Alvarez

Celebrating Our 50th Anniversary Safely

We are excited to welcome our members and friends to our in-person Convention in Saratoga Springs. As our commitment to providing a safe and healthy environment for all please be mindful of our COVID-19 protocols:

NYC and Western NY Buses:

In order to board the buses to & from convention, all participants will be administered a rapid response COVID-19 test, and must sign an attestation affirming that they are not feeling any of the symptoms associated with COVID-19. All participants will be required to wear masks during the bus ride to and from Saratoga Springs.

- Persons with positive test results will not be able to board the bus and will be refunded their conference registration fees.
- **Going Home:** Those who test positive will be given other options that will not require traveling on the bus with the rest of the group.

Commuters and Persons Traveling

Independently to Convention:

- Staff, participants and speakers, will be administered a rapid response COVID-19 test and sign an attestation affirming that they are not feeling any of the symptoms associated with COVID-19. Persons with positive test

results will not be able to attend the convention and will be refunded their conference registration fees.

- We will **REQUIRE** individuals to wear masks while in the convention spaces, regardless of vaccination status. Speakers will be permitted to be unmasked during their presentations. Individuals may lower or remove face coverings when actively eating or drinking. Participants should restore masks following any eating or drinking and social distance whenever possible.

StateWide is providing masks and rapid tests to all participants

The responsibility for a safe and healthy event environment is shared among StateWide, the hotel, and every participant. All convention participants are expected to adhere to and abide by the safety precautions we are implementing to protect against the spread of COVID-19.

We will see you at Convention!


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Medicare, Medicare Fraud and Patient's Rights Helpline 800-333-4374



CONVENTION THEME: STATEWIDE STRONG, 50 YEARS AND GROWING!

MON. 9/12

- 12 PM-3 PM Registration Hospitality Area
- 3:00 PM Convention Convenes
- President's Welcome
- Election of Board of Officers,
Executive Director's Report
- Guest Speakers:**
- The View From Washington*
Rebecca Kinney*, Director of the
Administration on Community
Living's Office of Healthcare
Information & Counseling
- Building a Caring Economy*
Ron Deutsch, Executive Director,
New Yorkers for Fiscal Fairness
- 5:30 PM Mix & Mingle at the Opening
Night Reception
- 7:00 PM Fun is in store -
 StateWide's Karaoke Night at the
hotel or Hotel Shuttle to Casino

TUE. 9/13

- 7:30 AM Breakfast
- 9:00 AM Celebrate 50 years of Activism
and Achievements. Walk down
memory lane with former
Executive Director **Mike Burgess**
and **Maria Alvarez**
- 10:00 AM Medicare and EPIC Updates
- 10:45 AM BREAK

TUE. 9/13

- 11 AM-12 PM **Choice of Panel Presentations**
- #1: Health Care System Transformation and the Consumer Voice**
Lara Kassel, Coordinator, Medicaid
Matters New York
Lois Uttley, Senior Advisor, Hospital
Equity & Accountability Project,
Community Catalyst
Denise Soffel Consumer Representa-
tive, NYS Dept. of Health's Public
Health & Health Planning Council
- #2: Conquering Medical Debt**
Blair Horner, Executive Director NY
Public Interest Research Grp.
Elisabeth Benjamin, Community
Services Society, Vice President of
Health Initiatives
- 12 PM-1 PM LUNCH
- 1 PM-2 PM **Legislators' Panel featuring:**
**Senate Aging Committee Chair Rachel
May, Assembly Aging Committee
Chair Ron Kim*, Assembly Health
Committee Chair Richard Gottfried*
and Senate Health Committee Chair
Gustavo Rivera***
- 2:30-3:30 PM EXHIBIT HALL
- 3:30-4:30 PM **Afternoon Options:**
Public Policy Town Hall;
Guided Walk - Congress Park;
SMP Meeting (SMP Volunteers)
- 6:00 PM **50th Anniversary Gala**
(Dress up if you wish) 

WED 9/14

- 7:30 AM Breakfast
- 8:30 AM Taking It Home
- 9:30 AM Adoption of the 2023 State &
(members only) Federal Legislative Priorities
- 11:30 AM Closing

* invited

StateWide's 50th Anniversary Convention Registration

September 12-14, 2022 in Saratoga Springs, NY

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Phone (____) _____ - _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____ Affiliation (if any) _____

Check one: Package Option (from below) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ H ☐ I ☐ J ☐ K

Total enclosed \$ _____ *If you are not a member and would like to join now, add \$20 to your registration**

If registering for a double room, preferred Room-mate's Name _____

Check box for your Lunch and Dinner Choice: (Breakfasts are buffet style—no choice needed)

Lunch Tues. ☐ Cheese Lasagna ☐ BBQ Chicken

Dinner Tues. ☐ London Broil ☐ Grilled Mahi Mahi ☐ Pasta with Vegetables

Check box if you have dietary restrictions ☐ Gluten Free ☐ Other _____

PACKAGE PRICING

	Member	Non-member
FULL Package A: Single, 2 nights, + opening day reception and 5 meals	\$460/person	\$535/person
FULL Package B: Double, 2 nights, + opening day reception and 5 meals	\$350/person	\$425/person
Package C: Single, Mon. night hotel, + opening reception, Tue. bkfst, lunch	\$365/person	\$440/person
Package D: Double, Mon. night hotel, opening reception, Tue. bkfst, lunch	\$185/person	\$260/person
Package E: Single, Tue. night hotel, Tue. lunch, dinner + Wed. bkfst, lunch box	\$280/person	\$355/person
Package F: Double, Tue. night hotel, Tue. lunch, dinner + Wed. bkfst, lunch box	\$225/person	\$300/person

COMMUTERS

FULL Package G: 3 days, reception & 5 meals	\$180	\$255
Package H: Monday, with reception	\$ 50	\$ 75
Package I: Tuesday, 2 meals (lunch, dinner)	\$105	\$180
Package J: Tuesday, 2 meals (bkfst, lunch)	\$ 70	\$145
Package K: Awards Dinner only	\$ 75	\$ 75

Check payable to NY StateWide Senior Action Council. Mail to: Gail Myers, 46 Commonwealth Dr., Glenmont, NY 12077
Online credit Card Charges Accepted. Call 518-703-2617 for more information.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Return this form w/ accompanying full payment by **August 15, 2022**

HOTEL INFORMATION: Holiday Inn Saratoga Springs, NY, 232 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
Phone: 1-518-584-4550, website: www.holidayinn.com. Hotel Accommodations Included in Package Pricing
Registration. StateWide will make your reservation. ***You will receive the discounted Member price for this event.**



New York StateWide Senior Action Council, Inc
275 State Street, Albany, NY 12210 • 800-333-4374 • Fax 518-436-7642
www.nysenior.org

StateWide Community Outreach



3/1: Community Organizer Melissa Kinney at the Johnson Park Center in Utica, NY. All seniors received a jelly bag full of StateWide items and information



6/10: Counselor Jennifer Sanchez tabling at Todt Hill Library in Staten Island



6/14: Counselor Gene Dumlao presenting at the Chapman Institute, Albany



6/2: Counselor Sarah Askew tabled and presented at the Service Coordinators Annual Meeting in Syracuse



3/26: Counselor Tiffany Erhard tabling at the Niagara Pride Health Fair



5/3: Gail Myers was a guest speaker at the NYS Senate Aging Committee meeting on priority issues, including reimagining long term care and addressing the quality concerns we have heard on our Patients Rights Helpline



5/12: Community Organizer Melissa Kinney presenting about our new Onondaga County Chapter of Statewide, at Senator May and InterFaith Works' Age Your Way—Older Americans Month Celebration



5/16: Outreach Organizer Jacqueline Kennedy-Saddler and Maria Alvarez at the NYSABPRHAL Event in Albany

Medicare, Medicare Fraud and Patient's Rights Helpline 800-333-4374

2022 Award Nomination Form

Each year at our Annual Convention, NY StateWide Senior Action Council awards outstanding seniors for their leadership to improve the lives of older residents:

Rose Kryzak Advocacy Award

An advocate and a leader on public policy issues locally and at the state level to promote the well being of older New Yorkers.

Paul E. Harenberg Award

Trains and educate others about important issues and programs benefitting seniors.

Robert E. O'Donnell Memorial Award

Promotes the growth and development of the New York StateWide Senior Action Council.

Michael Burgess Award

Promotes the senior movement through social activism, leadership, and the improvement of the quality of life of older New Yorkers.

Please Check one. Use one form per nominee:

_____ Rose Kryzak Advocacy Award*

_____ Paul E. Harenberg Award

_____ Robert E. O'Donnell Memorial Award*

_____ Michael Burgess Award

Nominee (person being nominated)

*Nominee must be a StateWide member

Name _____

Address _____

StateWide Chapter or County of Residence _____

Phone () - E-mail _____

Nominator (person filling out form)

Name _____

Address _____

StateWide Chapter or County of Residence _____

Phone () - E-mail _____

On a separate piece of paper please provide a statement of why the nominee is deserving of this award and include a description of his or her activities.

All forms must be postmarked by July 31, 2022. Any StateWide member in good standing can make a nomination. Nominees must be at least 55 years of age. **You can mail, fax or email your nomination form. Fax: (518) 436-7642**

Email: gail@nysenior.org; Address: Gail Myers, 46 Commonwealth Dr., Glenmont, NY 12077



March 11: Philanthropy in Phocus. Executive Director Maria Alvarez interviewed by Host Tommy Dimisa.

Weekly podcast on talkradio.nyc



April 1: Press Conferences: Lowering Medicare premiums & prescription drug costs for low income seniors.

Picture 1: Bob Sinacore (left), Albany Chapter President, and Kim Swire (right), Saratoga County Chapter President, with NY Senator Kirstin Gillibrand at Marra's Pharmacy, Cohoes

Picture 2: Ann Converso (right), Erie County Chapter President, and Senator Kirstin Gillibrand (left) at the Cheektowaga Senior Center



May 6: How to Stop Medicare/ Medical ID Scams

June 10: Easy Ways to Detect and Report Medicare Fraud

WABC-TV 7 *On Your Side* segments with Reporter Nina Pineda, featuring Jean Stone, SMP volunteer and Maria Alvarez.

More to come! If you want to view the past stories, visit our website at www.nysenior.org. You can also watch them on our Facebook page.

Red Flags to Look For on Your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN)



The best defense against Medicare fraud, errors, and abuse is you. Checking your MSNs when they come in the mail is an important habit to start.

Here are **three things you can look for when reviewing** your MSN to spot potential fraud.

- Is this a provider you know?
- Did you receive services on this day?
- Do any services appear twice when they shouldn't?

If you have questions about how to review your MSN, call our helpline at **800-333-4374** or visit our website at **www.nysenior.org**.

COVID and Cardio Scam



If you receive a call from someone claiming your cardiologist or other doctor wants you to have testing done to check for heart issues associated with the COVID-19 vaccine, hang up.

Scammers are using the vaccine as a way to get you to agree to thousands of dollars in genetic testing that you don't need. If you have given out your Medicare information over the phone to someone claiming you are eligible for free genetic testing, contact the NYS SMP.



This project was supported, in part by grant number 90MPPG0010-01-00, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201

Member Spotlight



In 2020, StateWide successfully lobbied to increase the consumer voice on the NYS Public Health & Health Planning Council (PHHPC.) The PHHPC advises the Commissioner on issues related to the preservation and improvement of public health. Importantly, it makes decisions concerning the establishment and transfer of ownership of health care facilities, home care agencies and hospice programs and reviews major construction projects, service changes, and equipment acquisitions in health care facilities and home care agencies.

Now, our NYC Chapter member Denise Soffel has been confirmed by the NYS Senate for her nomination by Governor Hochul to the newly formed consumer seat. Denise earned her PhD and master's degree in public administration from New York University's Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. She recently retired from her position as a Principal at Health Management Associates, a national research and consulting firm. During her eight years at HMA Soffel helped clients understand New York's dynamic and changing health care landscape. Previously, she served for two years as the executive director for the New York State Senate Committee on Health. StateWide first met Denise when she worked at the Community Service Society of New York (CSSNY) and helped found Medicaid Matters New York, a statewide coalition dedicated to bringing the voices and experiences of Medicaid consumers into the policy process. **Congratulations, Denise!**

Medicare, Medicare Fraud and Patient's Rights Helpline 800-333-4374

State Budget Yields Results for Older New Yorkers

Advocacy Success

Thanks to the advocacy of so many StateWide supporters, our Patients' Rights Helpline was fully funded in the state budget. This program is vitally important to help callers navigate the health care system. It also supports our monthly Teach Ins and our Virtual Resident and Family Council meetings.

Our Medicare and EPIC assistance Helpline was also fully funded, allowing us to offer insurance counseling throughout the year. Oftentimes, our counselors report issues from callers that result in advocacy for coverage improvements. This year, along with a coalition of partners including Medicaid Matters New York, we successfully gained expansion of Medicaid coverage and the Medicare Savings Program (MSP). Also new eligibility rules for the Medicaid program will allow undocumented immigrants age 65 and older to enroll. With the expansion of MSP comes an added benefit – the Extra Help with prescription drugs also expands to the MSP level. These changes will go into effect in 2023 – but if you know someone who will be eligible under the new income rules, contact us today so we can add them to the list of enrollment appointments to be scheduled in December.



Program	Current	2023 Expansion
MEDICAID	Income: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> About 87% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) \$934/month single \$1367/month couple Asset Limit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$16,800 single \$24,600 couple 	Income: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 138% FPL Approx. \$1563/month single \$2106/month couple Estimated 2023 Asset Limit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single \$28,134 Couple \$37,908
MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAM	Income: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 135% FPL \$1529/month single \$2,060/month couple Asset: None	Income: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 186% FPL \$2107/month single \$2838/month couple Asset: None

NYS Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) Programs

In spite of a growing older population, this year NYSOFA programs did not see significant increases. Importantly, a 5.4% cost of living increase was included for personnel staffing programs (including contractors) at the local level that provide office for aging services. NYSOFA will be contracting with some new vendors for programs designed to prevent isolation, including internet classes.

Medicare, Medicare Fraud and Patient's Rights Helpline 800-333-4374

Long Term Care



Quality of care in skilled nursing facilities (nursing homes) was of utmost concern to the Legislature. They added \$2.5 million to the Long Term Care Ombudsman program, approximately 100%

increase in state funding for the program. The intention was to increase the paid staff in the regional programs. A small fund was created to provide stipends to program volunteers.

With the 2021 law requiring a minimum staffing mandate of 3.5 hours of nursing home resident care per day due to take effect this year, the budget included funding \$51.5m Nursing Home Medicaid funding for compliance with staffing regulations. \$100m was added for financially struggling Nursing Home Vital Access Providers.

Health Care Providers



For all Medicaid providers, last year's 1% across the board provider rate cut was repealed and an additional rate increase

1.5% was granted. The state invested in the Health Care Workforce by paying direct care workers a bonus of up to \$3,000 for those making up to \$125,000/year. Disappointingly, support staff who are essential workers— vitally important to care but not direct care staff – were not included. Another failure – home care workers received only a nominal hourly wage increase (\$2 this year, another \$1 next year).

They did not receive the one-time bonus that other health care direct staff were granted and they did not win Fair Pay for Home Care increases. Of concern, the hourly wage increase may be enough to throw the workers off public benefits that they currently are enrolled in, but does not give them enough new resources to cover these costs themselves. The end result may be that the workers reduce their hours to continue their benefits (Medicaid, food stamps, etc.) creating an even worse crisis in home care availability.

Tax Relief



Income tax - The budget speeds up the phase-in of the middle-income tax cut first launched in 2018 from 2025 to 2023. It will provide a financial boost to 6.1 million New Yorkers.

Gas tax – the budget includes a break in the state sales tax on gasoline through the end of this year, to help offset the high costs consumers are paying at the pump. Some local governments are also considering reducing the share of local taxes.

Property tax - A new one-time Homeowner Tax Rebate Credit to low- & middle-income homeowners was delivered to most mailboxes in early June. This is billed as a one-time rebate to offset some property taxes. It applies to residents enrolled in the basic STAR program with incomes below \$250,000. This also applies to all enhanced STAR recipients.

State Legislature Produces Flurry of Bills



The Legislature recessed early in June, in time to return home as campaign season begins. They ended a very busy legislative session that resulted

in more than 1,000 bills passing and heading to the Governor for her signature or veto later this year. There were some new bills worth noting, and many issues that remain waiting action next year. **Bills that Passed Both the State Senate and Assembly:**

1. **A package of gun control bills has already been signed into law. These include:**
 - Measures to make ammunition easier to trace.
 - Require a license to purchase a semiautomatic rifle.
 - Increases the minimum age to 21 and requires law enforcement across the state to seek an extreme risk protection order, which would allow for confiscation of guns, if the evidence warrants it.
2. **New public reporting by the Long Term Care Ombudsman would:**
 - Publicize its annual reports and reveal information about patterns of complaints fielded by its regional offices.
 - Include data on complaints & allegations of neglect. The bill also defines the program's systemic advocacy to include concerns raised by residents and families of residents.

StateWide's Bill Tracker

Bills of interest to older New Yorkers can be found on StateWide's state Bill Tracker. You can find it on our website (www.nysenior.org) under the Advocacy tab. Or, call our office and ask for a copy to be mailed to you.

3. **Victims of negligence that resulted in death (including medical and non-medical fault) would have:**
 - an extended timeframe to bring a lawsuit to 3½ years and allowing families and domestic partners to collect monetary damages for the loss of affection and companionship.
 - Current law only compensates family's for the loss of a breadwinner, and therefore devalues the loss of children and older/non-working family members.
4. **Prevents Medical Debt by requiring that patients be notified before being billed facility fees** in addition to the cost of medical care and another bill prohibiting hospitals from garnishing indebted patients' wages or placing liens on their homes.
5. **Amends the law prohibiting mandatory overtime for nurses to close loopholes** that allowed an employer to declare a staffing emergency for routine nurse staffing needs and limits the number of days it can be use during declared emergencies.
6. **The Living Donor Act would reimburse organ donors** for non-medical costs associated with surgery to donate the organ, in an effort to increase donations.

Bills that Passed Both the State Senate and Assembly (cont.):

7. Creates a new advance care planning campaign to promote public awareness of hospice and palliative care services.
8. Public employment retirees' health coverage would not need to be dependent on continued inclusion in subsequent collective bargaining agreements to remain in place for the life of the retiree.
9. Requires financial institutions to send a written notification of overdraft fees charged to account holders every 180 days.
10. Just signed into law, the New York Voting Rights Act will enshrine at the state level a number of protections that have been stripped back at the federal level in recent years.
11. Protects consumers who are sent unsolicited goods and later billed with their only recourse being sending back the goods at their own expense, allowing the Attorney General to take action against violators.

Federal Action Needed

Congress is still negotiating to try to reach an agreement on numerous issues, including gun control, addressing inflation, funding coronavirus vaccines and care, and prescription drug affordability. Among the remaining issues are:

- **How to address the home care crisis** – we support the Better Jobs Better Care Act provide funds for state Medicaid programs to improve home- and community-based services (HCBS), such as home health care, personal care, case management, and rehabilitative services.
- **Improving Social Security benefits** – we support the Support Social Security Expansion Act to extend the solvency of Social Security for 75 years by requiring the wealthiest American households to pay their fair share of taxes, expand Social Security benefits across-the-board for current and new beneficiaries, and increase Cost-Of-Living-Adjustments (COLAs) by using an improved calculation to more accurately measure the spending patterns of seniors.
- **Improving Medicare** – we support Improved Medicare for All, and urge Congress to allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices to bring down costs, and expand coverage to include dental, hearing, vision and long term care benefits.
- **Fixing problems related to Medicare Observation Status** – we support the Improving Access to Medicare Act to ensure that an individual receiving hospital care but billed as outpatient observation services can qualify for Medicare covered nursing home care if they had a the three-day hospital stay.



StateWide's state and federal policy priorities are determined by our membership and that process starts NOW

If you have ideas about issues we should advance or oppose, contact your Chapter President to suggest amendments to our agenda. The Public Policy Committee meets monthly to discuss issues and will be drafting changes by August 12th to the agenda that will be brought before the membership for a vote at Convention on September 14th.

Our Priority Bills Still Needing Action

- **Fair Pay for Home Care** – Addresses the critical shortage of home care workers by increasing their hourly wage to 150% of the regional minimum wage.
- **New York Health Act** – Replaces all forms of health insurance with one state run comprehensive benefit for everyone, including no out of pocket costs, no premiums (funded by a payroll tax/income tax that would be less for most people than current costs) and includes dental, vision, hearing and long term care.
- **Improving the EPIC Program** – Expands access to the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage Program to those Medicare enrollees who are under age 65 and improves transparency and accountability in the program.
- **Address Medical Debt** - Require hospitals to expand financial assistance for patients and use a uniform financial assistance policy and application.

Nursing Home Quality of Care Advocacy

StateWide will be monitoring and contributing to discussion on reimaging long term care, a process that will begin after the pandemic ends. Until then, state minimum staffing requirements limitations on nursing home profits (both bills that became law in 2021) must be implemented. Both face court challenges from the nursing home provider industry. Now more than ever, the voices of residents and their concerned family and friends must be uplifted.



While we have been working on the state level for improved staffing, surveillance/response to complaints and oversight of nursing home operators, there is also federal action needed. Earlier this year the White House proposed similar measures, some of which may be done through the regulatory process. In June, StateWide submitted comments to the federal government on why it is essential that nursing homes improve staffing. We shared the stories of callers to our Helpline and participants in our Virtual Resident and Family Council. So many of the dangerous quality concerns are attributable to low staffing, with poor outcomes able to be prevented by increasing the direct care staff.

**Have you faced hospital bills that you could not pay?
Are you worried about that possibility in the future?**



StateWide is working to educate the public about your rights when facing hospital out of pocket costs that are unaffordable. We are seeking stories from people who have received collection notices from agents for hospital payments. Hospitals in the state should be explaining how to get assistance with paying your outstanding bills, no matter whether you have insurance that is not meeting your needs or are uninsured.

Get in touch with StateWide:

- if you need help with hospital bills
- if you have a story to share
- if you would like to learn more or request a speaker on this topic.

State Legislative & Congressional Elections



Many district lines were redrawn following the Census, and court challenges made the final district lines uncertain for quite some time. The result, for now is a split primary season – with the primary for the Governor’s race and the Assembly held in June and the primary for State Senate and Congressional seats held August 23. (The early voting period is August 13-21, 2022.) While we won’t know final results until after the General Election on November 8, 2022, one thing is certain – most candidates, including incumbents, are running to represent constituents that are new to them. Complicating things further, a court challenge may require Assembly district lines to be redrawn yet again for the 2024 election. Take a moment to find out who the candidates are that are seeking to represent your household.

You can call your local board of elections to find out which district number is assigned to your home address for State Senate, Assembly and Congressional races.

Be an Informed Voter



StateWide is not a political organization – we do not support any candidates for office. But we do educate about important issues to the senior community. By asking candidates questions you are being an informed voter and may be able to persuade the candidate to be a hero on our issues.

Be prepared to ask federal candidates these five questions to understand their positions:

1. Will you work to expand and improve Social Security and Medicare?
2. Do you believe that Social Security & Medicare need to be ‘reformed’ to close the deficit? If yes, are you doing that to protect only today’s beneficiaries and sacrificing the promise for future retirees?
3. Do you support lifting the payroll wage cap so that the wealthy pay their fair share for Social Security?
4. Will you push to empower Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices directly with Big Pharma?
5. Do you support expanding traditional Medicare to include hearing, vision, dental coverage and long term care?

Be prepared to ask State Assembly and Senate candidates these five questions:

1. Will you work to provide adequate funding for aging services to meet the needs of a growing older population that wants to age with dignity in their own communities.
2. Will you join efforts to end the home care workforce shortage by promising a living wage by supporting the Fair Pay for Home Care bill.
3. Do you support providing every New Yorker with access to quality health care services by providing Improved Medicare for All through the New York Health Act?
4. Can I count on you to support action to end medical debt by requiring hospitals to offer payment plans and financing assistance before sending a case to collection services?
5. What solutions do you have to ensure quality care in our nursing homes?

Green Option for Final Disposition



Over the past several years, consumers have become considerably more aware of their environmental impact, and many of us are making conscious efforts to reduce

energy consumption and preserve our natural resources. While recycling incentives, the push to ride public transportation, and other “green” initiatives have been around for years, the idea of environmentally-friendly burials is a new concept.

When making arrangements for yourself or a loved one, it’s important to express your wishes for not only the funeral but also the final disposition.

The **funeral** itself is the ceremonies honoring the deceased. The **final disposition** is the way the remains are finally handled. Keep in mind the only way to ensure you receive the services **and** disposition you desire is to make arrangements with a licensed Funeral Director. By doing so you’ll execute legal documents detailing your personal and specific selections that most closely meet your preferences.

In New York State, the most common forms of final disposition are burial of the deceased (43.4% in 2021) and cremation (51.1% in 2021). According to the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA), cremation rates in NYS are projected to rise to 76% by 2040. Advocates have pointed to the use of limited space (land), placing non-biodegradable materials into the ground, and burning of fossil fuels and gas as environmental concerns with these forms of disposition.

One of the more recent methods of disposition is **natural organic reduction**, or **human composting**. This new technology and process involves placing deceased human bodies in vessels where they are covered with wood chips & aerated, transforming the bodies into soil. This process, now authorized in several states, is promoted as a more environmentally-friendly form of final disposition.

In addition to reducing energy consumption and land use, proponents say elements that are in the body provide benefits to the forest and soil.

Licensed Funeral Directors are compassionate experts fully responsive to what a person desires for their own funeral/burial. If legalized in New York, NYSFDA members will work to honor and uphold the wishes of anyone choosing natural organic reduction as a method of final disposition. For a list of member firms, [visit our website](#).

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*This message is presented to you by the NYS
Funeral Directors Association, Inc.*

**YOUR DUES ARE DUE IF THERE IS AN
ASTERISK* ON YOUR MAILING LABEL**

Check box:

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Gift of Membership*

*Gifted by _____

Check box:

- | | | | |
|--|---------------|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership | \$ 20/yr | <input type="checkbox"/> Rose Kryzak Legacy Fund | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Couple Membership | \$ 25/yr | <input type="checkbox"/> In Honor of _____ | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Membership | \$ 150/ind. | <input type="checkbox"/> In Memory of _____ | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Membership | \$ 200/couple | <input type="checkbox"/> 50th Anniversary Contribution | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization Membership | \$ 75/yr | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 50th Anniversary**: | \$ 50/yr | **\$20 Individual Membership and \$30 Contribution | |

Contributions

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County _____

Affiliated Organization _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

You can contact us at **518-436-1006**. Please make your check payable to: NY StateWide Senior Action Council

Mail this form and your check to: c/o Gail Myers, 46 Commonwealth Drive, Glenmont, NY 12077

All dues and contributions are tax deductible

New Individual Members:

Nancy Aureli	Liverpool
Clifford Borden	Buffalo
Kathy Dunphy	Forest Hills
Nancy A. Fox	Ithaca
Christopher & Stephanie	
Gilson	Norfolk
David Jerome	Queens Village
Linda King	Sparkill
Courtney Krueger	Buffalo
Debora LaRose	Massena
Jennifer Mihalkovic	Plattsburgh
Noel & Nancy Thompson	Warwick
Leroy Wiggins, Sr.	Amherst

New Lifetime Members:

Timothy Wade & Coralie	
Hook	Brooklyn
Kathleen Mattessich	New York
Ancilla & Crispin Friday	Brooklyn
Nancy Gabriel	Ithaca
Bernice Wiggins	Amherst

**Thank you for joining
StateWide's 50th
Anniversary campaign**

Paul & Phyllis Cooney	Albany
Eustene Corbin	Brooklyn
Jerry Cornwell	Ithaca
Jocelyn Downes	Brooklyn
Mary Ann Fastook	New York
Cora Gilmore	New York
Mark Hannay	New York
Barbara McBurnie	Parishville
Diane Adele Pomeroy	Spring Valley
Susan Schrader	Fort Covington
Doris Smith	Moravia
Lauryn Wilson	Bronx
WNY Chapter of NYSARA	Buffalo

If you would like to make a donation to our 50th Anniversary Campaign, mail us a check or money order payable to NY StateWide Senior Action Council, c/o Gail Myers, 46 Commonwealth Dr., Glenmont NY 12077

Kryzak Fund Contributors:

Elizabeth Kryzak	Flushing
MaryEllen Ryall	Saratoga Sp.
Judy & Bill Schultz	Scotia
Paul & Phyllis Cooney	Albany
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In Memoriam

The energy and spirit of our active members who passed will carry us into our next fifty years.

<u>Contributor</u>	<u>In Memory of</u>
Bernadette Sherman	Jim Sherman
Maria Alvarez	Rich Lee
Maria Alvarez	Linda Friedenburg



New York StateWide Senior Action Council, Inc
275 State Street, Albany, NY 12210 • 800-333-4374 • Fax 518-436-7642
www.nysenior.org

Medical-grade N95 or KN95 masks required. Both masks and rapid tests will be provided.

50TH ANNIVERSARY & ANNUAL CONVENTION **SAFETY FIRST**

PRIOR | Any individuals who test positive PRIOR to the Convention, show any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 or have had a possible positive exposure should NOT plan to attend. Please contact StateWide at **800-333-4374** if you need to cancel your registration as a result.

DURING | Any individuals who begin to show signs or symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive while on site should immediately self-quarantine. Please contact StateWide to notify immediately and ensure next steps are addressed in a timely manner.



The convention is open to all, but make sure to **join StateWide as a member and secure discounted convention registration!** Visit www.nysenior.org for more information.

Let's all do our part and have a safe and healthy time at the convention.

We hope to see you!



Medicare, Medicare Fraud and Patient's Rights Helpline 800-333-4374