

SMP MONTHLY

ISSUE NO. 36 | DEC 2022 |

Happy
Holidays
AND A
JOYFUL NEW YEAR

REMINDERS



Join us for the SMP Volunteer Meeting on January 20, 2023

Topic: Protecting Yourself Online

Speaker: Leslie Sierra, Outreach Counselor

- Click [HERE](#) to join virtually
- To join by phone dial 646-558-8656, Meeting ID: 533 682 2516

Greetings,

What a year 2022 has been! As we look back at the success of the SMP program, here are a few of the highlights:

- ♦ We celebrated StateWide's Golden Anniversary in Saratoga Springs and met with SMP volunteers at our Annual Convention.
- ♦ The SMP Program celebrated their 25th anniversary in June with a national week focused on Medicare Fraud Prevention.
- ♦ We spread the NYS SMP message via tv, radio, newspaper, flyers, emails, social media, webinars, phone calls, virtual and in-person meetings!

We would like to thank all of you for your support and dedication this past year. The success of the SMP program is built from your efforts and we are so proud to have you with us.

Our next SMP volunteer meeting will be on January 20th at 11 AM. Outreach Counselor Leslie Sierra will present on how to protect yourself online. Since the holidays are one of the most vulnerable times of the year that people become victims of fraud, we included scams to watch out for in this month's newsletter.

Enjoy your Holiday and Happy New Year!

- The NY StateWide Senior Action Council Staff



**OPEN
ENROLLMENT
ENDS TODAY,
DEC 7th.**

**Our counselors are
available until 11 PM!**

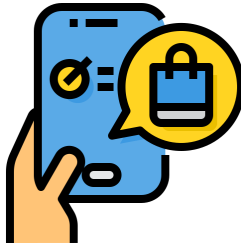
Today is the last day of Medicare Open Enrollment.

- This is the time to review and change your Medicare plans.
- Once this closes, you will need to wait until next year's open enrollment.
- Our counselors are ready to help. Please call them for free, unbiased information about your Medicare options including prescription drug plans. 800-333-4374.

Medicare Fraud Helpline 800-333-4374

Staying Safe During the Holidays

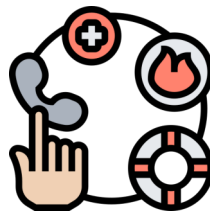
1. **Online Purchases.** Research sellers before you buy your holiday gift. Search online for any complaint's or reviews about the seller before you purchase.



2. **Shipping Scams.** If you receive a text or email message that *seems* to be from the United States Postal Service (USPS) or any shipping company with a link, be alert. These kinds of scams are on the rise during the holidays.

3. **Charity Scams.** Research the charity online before you make your donation. Use [Charity Watch](#), [Charity Navigator](#) or [BBB's Wise Giving Alliance](#).

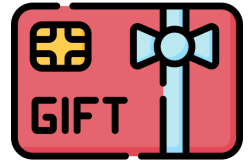
4. **Family Emergency Scam.** Scammers pretend to be connected to someone you trust and share an urgent situation that needs your help. They often pressure you for wire transfers, cash, gift cards or cryptocurrency.



5. **Holiday Job Scams.** Don't pay for the promise of a job. Legitimate employers, including the federal government, will never ask you to pay to get a job. Anyone who does is a scammer.

7. The Gift Card Peek Scam.

Scammers scratch off the silver coating that protects the PIN code, record the code, then apply a new coating:



- Carefully examine any gift cards you purchase or send e-gift cards directly to recipients from a reputable site.
- Avoid shopping for discount gift cards through local swap websites.
- If you receive an unsolicited email or text offering you a gift card, do not respond. Your computer or phone could become infected with a virus or malware.

Upcoming Patient Advocate Teach in

Topic: Unwinding After the Public Health Emergency

Ends: Transitions to Coverage and Assistance Under Medicare, Medicaid & the Medicare Savings Program.



Speaker: Frank M. Winter, Regional Training Lead, Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) Regional Office

To register for the ZOOM Webinar event virtually [click HERE](#) (or visit nysenior.org)

To connect via phone: 646-558-8656,
Webinar ID: 884 8488 7653#

Source: Federal Trade Commission, ftc.gov

The NYS Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) can help you with your questions, concerns, or complaints about potential fraud issues. Please call the NYS SMP at 800-333-4374.

