

# New York StateWide Senior Action Council

# MEMBER UPDATE

SPRING 2023



Maria Alvarez

## New York Seniors: 1 in 5 is YOU!

This year's Annual Convention in Saratoga Springs is a nod to our generation. In New York State, as well as the rest of the country, the 65+ group will soon make up over 20% of the entire population. Our convention will speak to the staying power that our cohort has in society's economic, political, and social arenas.

In addition to discussing the latest developments regarding health care, economic security, and aging in place with dignity, we will welcome top officials from federal and state agencies interested in learning about our membership's perspective.

StateWide's Annual Convention is also a time to re-connect and enjoy fellowship with our counterparts from other chapters in the beautiful Saratoga Springs surroundings.

During this, StateWide's 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention, Board President Helen Edelstein will discuss our newly minted Strategic Plan. This plan reflects our organization's ideology

and outlines the ways in which we will activate our membership to fulfill our mission for the next three years.

Of course, the most important part of the convention is when our members vote on our state and federal legislative agendas – the work that we will undertake to improve the lives of our families and elders in New York State.

This year is significant because it will set us on the path that we will take for the next 50 years of senior activism. We will see you there!

María Alvarez,

*Executive Director*

New York StateWide Senior Action Council

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

## State Budget Wrap-Up

A month late, and authorizing spending of \$229 billion, which is an increase of \$3.4 billion or 2.8 percent over SFY 2022-23 and \$2b more than the Governor originally proposed, the State Budget for Fiscal Year 23-24 has finally been approved. Delay in passage resulted from extended negotiations on policy matters relating to crime, housing and affordability of living in the state.



In such a large budget covering so many policy areas, there's some good news and some missed opportunities. Balancing the budget with the likely last infusion of COVID-relief federal funds and redirecting revenue from the rainy day fund, the Governor rejected the legislature's push to raise taxes on New Yorkers making more than \$5 million. As a result, some new programs were funded, but important initiatives such as immigrant *Coverage for All*, tenants rights to *Good Cause Eviction* and improved salaries in *Fair Pay for Home Care* were not included. There is an infusion of funds to address mental health, new policy to improve the environment and an increase in Medicaid payment rates for hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

## StateWide Service Fully Funded



The Budget has fully restored funding for our MCCAP (health insurance counseling and navigation) and Patients Rights Helplines.

We thank each and every one of you for advocating for our programs and ensuring that the elected officials and the community sees the value in programs such as ours.

## Aging Services

Most aging services received the same level of funding as last year, with some notable exceptions. The Governor had proposed a 2.5% cost of living increase to hike the pay of nonprofit workers that the state hires to provide health care services to the elderly, people with disabilities, and other New Yorkers but the Legislature increased that to a 4% increase to promote worker recruitment and retention. This now applies to the NYS Office for Aging's core service contracts.



Aware of the need for in home services for the aging population, the Legislature included \$9.3 million in additional funding for the Expanded In-home Services for the Elderly (EISEP) program. This funding is not limited to only addressing wait lists. Noting the lack of coverage of long term care facilities, the Legislature provided an additional \$2.5 million to support the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. Additionally, the Legislature provided \$1 million to support Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC) and Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NNORC) nursing services.

## Minimum wage

The minimum wage — currently set at \$15 in the New York City area, and \$14.20 upstate — **will rise to \$17 in the New York City area and \$16 upstate by 2026.** Beginning on January 1, 2027, these wages will be annually indexed to inflation.



There are several problems though: the automatic increases will be canceled if unemployment is up, the new base pay may not be enough to ensure that the lowest-paid workers' wages keep up with the cost of living and the new pay scale negates last year's pledge to ensure that home care worker base pay is at least \$3 above the regional minimum wage.

## Environmental issues

New policy included in the budget bans fossil fuels from NEW construction by 2026 for buildings up to seven stories and by 2029 for all new buildings. In so doing, **New York will become the first state to ban gas stoves in new construction beginning in 2026.**

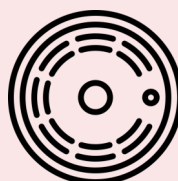


The budget also includes a mandate to decarbonize the 15 highest-polluting state buildings and allocates resources for a Climate Action Fund which will, among other things, help foot the bill for heat pump installation and electric vehicles, as well as storm management, while targeting investments in disadvantaged communities.

## Utility costs

There is more funding for utility debt relief, which has strapped hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers during the pandemic. **The budget also puts \$200 million toward a new “EmPower Plus” program to help homeowners weatherize and electrify their homes.** The program comes with a guarantee that **participating households won't pay more than six percent of their income on electricity.**

The Legislative Session is scheduled to end mid-June, and some of the policy matters that did not make it into the final budget will continue. Stay tuned!



## Working Smoke Alarms Can Cut the Risk of Death from Home Fires in Half.

That's why the American Red Cross is installing **FREE** smoke alarms in your community!

- Request a smoke alarm installation today.
- Contact the Eastern NY Preparedness Team at (518) 694-5121
- Visit [Preparedness.ENY@redcross.org](mailto:Preparedness.ENY@redcross.org).



**American Red Cross**  
Eastern New York Region

## EPIC Income Eligibility Changes

The Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program is a New York State program for seniors administered by the Department of Health. It helps more than 325,000 income-eligible seniors aged 65 and older to supplement their out-of-pocket Medicare Part D drug plan costs.

EPIC has two plans based on income:

- The Fee Plan is for members with income up to \$20,000 if single or \$26,000 if married.
- The Deductible Plan is for members with incomes ranging from \$20,001 to \$75,000 if single or \$26,001 to \$100,000 if married.

As of April 1st, 2023, an individual who has EPIC cannot become ineligible based on income because of an increase in either a public or private pension or an increase in Social Security benefits as provided under federal law where such increase does not exceed the consumer price index. This change is the result of an act to amend the elder law that was passed in 2022. This amendment will expire in 1 year unless it is renewed by the legislature.

This is a new provision and StateWide will continue to provide updates as information develops.



**If you have been deemed ineligible for the EPIC program and it was a result of a change to your pension or Social Security benefit, please call our Helpline at 800-333-4374**

**and one of our trained counselors will assist you.**

## Medicaid Recertification

Call your local Social Services office to make sure they have your correct address. If you already have SNAP benefits your current Medicaid will be automatically renewed. For this year only, there will be no need to meet the asset test IF you are renewing (not for new applications.)



**BEWARE OF SCAMS: There is no fee to recertify - do not fall prey to scammers who say they can expedite your recertification.**

## SNAP Farmers' Market Benefit Doubles its Purchasing Power

Starting April 15, 2023, NYS expanded benefits for people using SNAP benefits at farmers' markets. The FreshConnect Fresh2You initiative will help consumers that lost some of their SNAP benefits due to the reductions to the SNAP program by increasing their buying power at participating farmers markets.

- If you are a recipient of SNAP benefits and wish to use those benefits at a farmers' market, you can find a participating market. Visit [www.agriculture.ny.gov/farmersmarkets](http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/farmersmarkets)
- Call your local Office for Aging for more information about SNAP benefits at farmers' markets.
- At participating farmers' markets, you may be eligible to receive FreshConnect Checks in addition to your SNAP benefit.
- For every \$2 in SNAP benefits a customer exchanges for wooden tokens, the manager may issue an additional \$2 credit in the form of a FreshConnect Check.
- This check may be spent at the market on any SNAP eligible food item.



# Town Hall with Dara Kass, MD

**Regional Director, Region 2;**  
*US Department of Health and Human  
Services Serving: NY, NJ, PR, USVI &  
8 Tribal Nations*



## **Locations throughout NYS**

### **About:**

HHS Regional Director Dara Kass, MD is coming to your town to discuss initiatives that impact New York's elders including:

- Medicare Savings under the Inflation Reduction Act
- Importance of Up-to-Date Vaccinations
- Mental Health Support/988
- Updates on Medicare Benefits

Share your comments related to Medicare, Medicaid, Health, Human and Senior Services. Don't miss out on this opportunity to engage in this informative discussion.

### **Locations:**

**5/31, 2:45 PM: Newtown Senior Center**  
83-20 Queens Blvd, Elmhurst, NY 11373

**6/7, 2:30 PM: William-Emslie Family YMCA**  
585 William St, Buffalo, NY 14206

**6/20, 1:00 PM: Ulster County Office for the Aging**, 1003 Development Court, Kingston, NY 12401

**9/11, 4:00 PM: StateWide 2023 Convention**, Holiday Inn, Saratoga Springs

**For more information and to RSVP, please call 800-333-4374 or email [info@nysenior.org](mailto:info@nysenior.org)**



**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)

## Federal Budget and Debt

The Debt Ceiling is a limit that is authorized (and periodically raised by Congress) to allow the federal government to borrow in order to pay for previously authorized programs when revenue is insufficient to pay the bills. This is a process separate from the federal budget, where decisions about spending and revenue are considered. Congress is obligated to address the debt ceiling; as we went to press, the House of Representatives passed a proposal for a modest, short term increase to the borrowing authority, but tied it to significant long term cuts in spending, heavily impacting important services on which older residents and their families rely.

*StateWide* supports responsible budget and debt policies. Congress should debate spending and revenue measures in the budget process, separately from actions that will either lead us to or prevent debt default. Our message is: Congress must avoid crashing the economy and federal debt default. They must reject budget cuts or policy changes that increase poverty or take away health care and food assistance from people who count on it.

Separate from the debt authorization, Congress must work towards enacting a new federal budget, due by September 30. The White House has already released its framework – and that includes provisions to protect and strengthen Social Security and Medicare.

### Solvency of the Social Security & Medicare Trust Funds Needs to be Assured

The trustees estimate that, if policymakers take no further action, Social Security's combined Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability

Insurance (DI) trust fund reserves will be depleted in 2033. (This is one year earlier than reported last year). After 2033, Social Security could still pay about 77% of scheduled benefits using its tax income even if policymakers took no steps to shore up the program.

The trustees estimate depletion of the Medicare Hospital Insurance (HI = Part A) trust fund in 2031. (This is three years later than reported last year.) After 2031, with no other action, income will be sufficient to pay 89% of total scheduled benefits.

## The Best Defense is a Strong Offense!

There is strong public support for these programs and Congress needs to act.

**SOCIAL SECURITY:** Urge Congressmembers to support the Social Security Expansion Act (S393 by Sen. Sanders & HR 1046 by Rep. Schakowsky) to increase benefits and strengthen the Trust Fund by increasing the payroll tax cap.

**MEDICARE:** Urge Congressmembers to support the Medicare Dental, Vision, and Hearing Benefit Act (S842 by Senator Casey & HR 33 by Rep. Doggett) to add hearing, dental and vision benefits.



**Long Term Care** - In April, President Biden signed an Executive Order (EO) to better support older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers. The EO includes over fifty directives to government agencies to improve policies for care workers and family caregivers: advance better home care jobs, provide increased supports for family caregivers, and improve care in nursing facilities. In addition, the federal government is proposing regulations to improve transparency of nursing home entities with new ownership and disclosure requirements. We also anticipate forthcoming proposals to establish minimum ratios of nursing home staff to residents.

## Senior Medicare Patrol

### Join the NYS Senior Medicare Patrol for Medicare Fraud Prevention Week



Eustene Corbin,  
StateWide Board  
Vice President

The NYS Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) is gearing up for its annual Medicare Fraud Prevention Week, which will take place June 5-11. This week-long event is dedicated to raising awareness about Medicare fraud and empowering seniors to protect, detect and report Medicare fraud.

Medicare Fraud is a serious problem that affects millions of Americans each year. Fraudsters who cheat the Medicare system can put patients at risk, drive up healthcare costs, and waste taxpayer dollars. That's why it's important to raise awareness and to take steps to prevent it.



Staten Island JCC SMP Volunteers (L to R):  
Paloma Wasserstein, Judith Fonti, Susan Stambler,  
and Beth Nivin

There are several actions you can take to protect yourself against fraud. Here are a few tips:

- **Guard Your Card.** Always protect your Medicare number and only share it with trusted healthcare providers.
- **Review your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN)** carefully to ensure that you received the services listed. If you see any services that you did not receive, call the Medicare Fraud Helpline at 800-333-4374.
- **Be cautious of "FREE" medical services**, as they may be a tactic used to obtain your Medicare information.
- **When you find out about a scam, share it with someone else.** When people work together to prevent scams, they can create a safer and more supportive environment for everyone.
- **Report any suspected fraud to the NYS Senior Medicare Patrol at 800-333-4374.**

Medicare Fraud Prevention Week is an excellent opportunity to learn more about Medicare Fraud and the NYS SMP. With education and awareness, we can work together to prevent Medicare Fraud and to promote a safer, more secure healthcare system for all.

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.



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



# 2023 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 educates 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, 2023. 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](mailto:gail@nysenior.org); Address: Gail Myers, 46 Commonwealth Dr., Glenmont, NY 12077**



## New Individual Members:

Judy Adams	Nyack
Michael & Anna	
Baugh	Buffalo
Frank Berlin	Clifton Park
Sharon Bishop	Massena
Helen Broadway	Ridgewood
Susan Burns	Cayuga
Consuelo Celestine	Brooklyn
Virginia Ellis	Brooklyn
James & Angela	
Falvey	Brockport
Susanne Freeman	Albany
Mr & Mrs Perry Gava	Clifton Park
Jennie Gelfand	Saugerties
Howard Hall	Bronx
Heidi Harding	Dewittville
Mr & Mrs Edward	
Harrison	Clifton Park
Sharon Hunley	Buffalo
Paul Johnson	Buffalo
Dorothy Laffoon	Moravia
Mary Ann Mays	Saugerties
Jackie McSween	Bronx
Mrs. Larry Morley	Clifton Park
Christine Moulton	Brasher Falls
Kathy Nelson	Ithaca
Gina Newton	Bronx
Ester Norman-Rios	Boiceville
Clifton Perez	Troy
Mrs. George Perry	Clifton Park
Phil & Beata Prehn	Syracuse
Judith Prevratil	Rochester
Barbara Schlesier	Clifton Park
Diane Sheppard	Brooklyn
Patricia Smith	Bronx
Mary Strouse	New Paltz
Mary Thomas	Ganesvoort
Edwina Thompson	New York
Elma Walters	Brooklyn
Verdine Warner-Hinds	Brooklyn
Mae Watson	Buffalo

## New Lifetime Members:

Bonnie Davidson	Canton
Kelly McMullen & Tim	
Fitzmaurice	Germantown
David Jerome	Queens
Henry & Mary Moss	Bronx
Jacynth Stewart	Brooklyn
Mary Stovall-Merrill	Brooklyn
Kim Swire	Clifton Park
Evette Weeks	Brooklyn

## Kryzak Fund Contributors:

Maria Alvarez	Queens
Pat Barbalich	Colton
Patricia Binzer	Albany
Helen Boudreau	Clifton Park
Mark Brennan-Ing	New York
Mertal James & Lorna	
Christie	Brooklyn
Paul & Phyllis Cooney	Albany
Peg & Pat Corbett	Rome
Mary Degon	Malone
Helen Edelstein	Rhinebeck
John Egan	Queensbury
Antoinette Emers	Bronx
Mary Ann Fastook	New York
Kathleen Fleming	Ballston Lake
Hazel Collman Foster	Elmont
Francine Frank	Slingerlands
Margaret Graham	New York
Esther Grennell	Candor
Marcus Harazin	Delmar
Mary Jones	Potsdam
Gloria Koslofsky	Utica
Kathlene Lyman	Alplaus
Barbara McBurnie	Parishville
Eileen Moran	Bayside
Sarina Nicola	Lake Placid
Madeline Pennington	Parishville
Shirley Pinckney	Glen Cove
Helen Sanders	Buffalo
Joseph Selevan	Buffalo
Doris Smith	Moravia
Mary Strouse	New Paltz
Elaine Terry	Brooklyn
Barbara Thomas	Saratoga Springs
Ken Traub	Rochester
Susan Tucker	New York
Linda Wilkinson	Potsdam
Jeanne Williams Bennett	Ilion
Lauryn Wilson	Bronx

## New Organization Members:

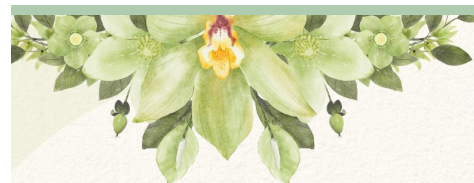
Massena Senior Citizens	Massena
Westcott Community Center	Syracuse

## HONOR SOMEONE



You may wish to have your contribution to StateWide serve as a gift honoring someone or in memory of someone. We will feature those contributions with a notice in our newsletter.

## In Memoriam



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

In Memory of	Contributor
Lena Sierra	Maria Alvarez
Rose Kryzak	Priscilla Bassett
Mark Roman	Sigilfredo Roman
Harriet Myers	Gail Myers
Herb Sanders	Gail Myers
Eugene Jones	May Jones
Bob Miller	Maria Alvarez
	Barb McBurnie
	North Country
	Chapter of StateWide



### Robert "Bob" Miller – Last Call

*(Past President and Vice President, Board of Directors, Recipient of StateWide's Kryzak, Harenberg, O'Donnell Awards)*

North Country Chapter President, Barb McBurnie and I attended Bob Miller's wake and graveside funeral on May 5, 2023. Bob lived and breathed StateWide, as noted by all present. His sisters, brothers, children, and friends were all members of StateWide. Those who were not members knew all about us! Bob had been a Volunteer Firefighter in St. Lawrence County. At the graveside, before the final goodbye – a call was made to the local Fire Department announcing his burial. We stood by as Bob's fellow firefighters heard that one of their own had made their final call. It is with gratitude and much affection that we bid Bob Miller farewell – gone, but not forgotten.

*Maria Alvarez, Executive Director*

## 2023 CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Theme - New York Seniors: 1 in 5 is YOU!

### MON. 9/11

- 12 - 3 PM **REGISTRATION**  
Hospitality Area
- 3:00 PM **CONVENTION CONVENES**  
President's Remarks  
Executive Director's Report  
**THE VIEW FROM WASHINGTON**  
**Dr. Dara Kass**, Regional Director  
Region II: US Department of Health  
and Human Services Serving: NY,  
NJ, PR, USVI & 8 Tribal Nations  
**Kathleen Otte**, Regional Director  
Region II, Centers for Medicare  
and Medicaid Services  
**Rhonda Schwartz**, Regional  
Administrator - Region II,  
Administration for Community  
Living
- 5:30 PM **RECEPTION**
- 7 - 9 PM **EVENING OPTIONS**
- Karaoke
  - Hotel Shuttle to Casino
  - Health Care Crisis—  
Documentary Film & Discussion

### TUE. 9/12

- 7:30 AM Breakfast
- 9:00 AM Keynote Speaker
- 10:00 AM Medicare and EPIC Updates
- 11 - 12 PM Exhibit Hall
- 12 - 1 PM Lunch
- 1:15-2:45 PM **CHOICE OF BREAKOUT  
SESSION:**
- Health Panel
  - Consumer Protection Panel
- 3:30-4:30 PM **AFTERNOON OPTIONS**
- Senior Medicare Patrol  
Meeting
  - Legislative Issues Town Hall  
Meeting
  - Guided Walk in the Park
- 6:00 PM Awards Gala—Dinner and  
Dancing

### WED 9/13

- 7:30 AM Breakfast
- 8:30 AM Taking It Home
- 9:30 AM Adoption of the 2024 State  
and Federal Legislative  
Priorities (Members only)
- 11:30 AM Closing Remarks



**Register with a refundable \$25 deposit (or pay in full) by June 30 and get an Early Bird Discount of \$25. (discount does NOT apply to commuter rates.)**

- Full payment due by Aug 15, 2023.
- Cancel by Sept. 3 for a full refund.

**NEW! For each first-timer you bring to convention you will get a gift certificate towards a 1 year membership that you can use for yourself in 2024 or after or as a gift.**

# 2023 Convention Registration

**September 11–13, 2023 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 \_\_\_\_\_

☐ If you are registering for the first time, please check the box and provide the name of the person who encouraged you to register. First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Lunch Tues. ☐ Eggplant Parmesan ☐ BBQ Chicken (GF)

Dinner Wed. ☐ Roast Turkey ☐ Baked Salmon ☐ Stuffed Pepper (vegan)

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	\$470/person	\$545/person
FULL Package B: Double, 2 nights, + opening day reception and 5 meals	\$360/person	\$435/person
Package C: Single, Mon. night hotel, + opening reception, Tue. bkfst, lunch	\$375/person	\$450/person
Package D: Double, Mon. night hotel, opening reception, Tue. bkfst, lunch	\$195/person	\$270/person
Package E: Single, Tue. night hotel, Tue. lunch, dinner + Wed. bkfst, lunch box	\$290/person	\$365/person
Package F: Double, Tue. night hotel, Tue. lunch, dinner + Wed. bkfst, lunch box	\$235/person	\$310/person

## COMMUTERS

FULL Package G: 3 days, reception & 5 meals	\$190	\$265
Package H: Monday, with reception	\$ 60	\$ 85
Package I: Tuesday, 2 meals (lunch, dinner)	\$115	\$200
Package J: Tuesday, 2 meals (bkfst, lunch)	\$ 80	\$160
Package K: Wednesday Awards, dinner only	\$75	\$ 75

**Early bird special for members only – register with refundable \$25 deposit (or pay in full) by June 30 and get an early bird discount of \$25. Full payment due by August 15, 2023. This will not apply for commuter registrations.**

**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, 2023**

**HOTEL INFORMATION:** Holiday Inn Saratoga Springs, NY, 232 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Phone: 1-518-584-4550, website: [www.holidayinn.com](http://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.**

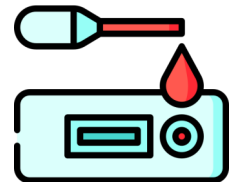
## **STATEWIDE'S 2023 CONVENTION IN SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY** **SEPTEMBER 11–13, 2023. REGISTER TODAY! (See page 11)**

### **CDC finalized new recommendations for COVID-19 vaccines.**



- People ages 65 and older who received an updated bivalent dose at least 4 months ago are eligible for another bivalent booster dose.
- People who are immunocompromised are eligible for additional bivalent booster doses 2 months after their last dose.
- Uninsured individuals can get free access to COVID-19 vaccines and treatment at pharmacies, health centers, and through existing public health infrastructure.

### **COVID-19 at-home tests may not be covered by insurance.**



- After May 11, 2023, Laboratory tests for COVID-19 that are ordered by your provider will still be covered with no out-of-pocket costs for people with Medicare.
- Insurance providers will no longer be required to waive costs or provide free COVID-19 tests.
- CDC's No Cost COVID-19 Testing Locator can help people find current community and pharmacy partners participating in the Increasing Community Access to Testing (ICATT) program. To find the Testing Locator online visit [www.testinglocator.cdc.gov](http://www.testinglocator.cdc.gov)