

Elder News

Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs

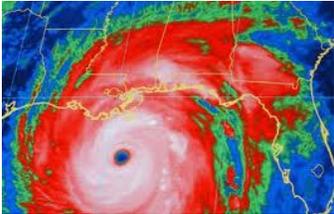
"Serving Seniors Successfully"

Fall 2014

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Hurricane Season Is OVER! Thankfully no storms this year, but be prepared in case of flooding or wintery weather.

November is **National Family Caregivers Month**. Across the country there are many who are making sacrifices so that the people they love can remain in their homes and age with dignity. These caregivers often juggle personal lives to schedule medical appointments, pick up medicines, pay bills, and assist with basic daily living activities for their loved ones. In many situations, the caregiver is unaware of the supports and resources available to them. Since 2000, the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) has been federally funded and designed specifically to meet some of the caregiver's needs. In the month of November, as we prepare for the holidays, let us be reminded of those that are providing care year round for their loved ones and make sure that these caregivers are aware of all the resources and services available to them.

The **U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs** has recently began mailing Veterans Choice Cards to Veterans who are waiting more than 30 days from their preferred date of appointment or the date of appointment that is medically determined by the veteran's physician at a VA facility. The Choice Program is a new, temporary benefit that allows some Veterans to receive health care in their communities rather than waiting for a VA appointment or traveling to a VA facility. Eligibility is determined by the Veteran's place of residence. Eligibility explanation letters are being mailed out to Veterans. For more information regarding Veteran's Choice Cards, contact Veterans Affairs at 1-866-606-8198 or visit their web site at <http://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact>.

Holiday Giving...Signs of Charity Scams

As the holiday season approaches, many of our seniors are targets for Charity Scams. To help our seniors in avoiding charity scams, the following are "Red Flags"

- Charities refuse to provide detailed information about its identity, mission, costs and how the donation will be used
- Charity will not provide proof that a contribution is tax deductible
- Uses a name that closely resembles that of a better-known, reputable organization
- Gives thanks for donations in the past that the individual doesn't remember making
- Charity uses high-pressure tactics without giving time to think about the donation and/or researching the charity
- Asks for donations in cash or to wire the money
- Charity offers to send a courier to collect the donation immediately
- Charity guarantees sweepstakes winnings in exchange for a contribution

NOTE: If you think you are someone you know has been a victim of a charity scam, **FILE A COMPLAINT** with the Federal Trade Commission.

For more information about Charity Scams, please visit the Federal Trade Commission at www.consumer.ftc.gov.

Holiday Safety Tips

When choosing lights and decorations, choose lights appropriate to use: Use indoor lights indoors and Outside lights Outside. Make sure all electrical cords have no frayed or cracked wires or broken sockets.

DO NOT

- attempt to repair worn lights
- link more than three light strands (unless the directions indicate it is safe)
- overload electrical outlets
- leave lights turned on for prolonged periods or unattended.

When possible, decorate with LED lights as they produce almost no heat, and are shatterproof and shock resistant. **Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season.**

Long Term Care Ombudsman Fall Conference

The Louisiana Long Term Care Ombudsman Conference was held November 18-19, 2014 at the Country Inn Suites in Pineville, LA. Twenty one Ombudsmen represented all seven regions along with the Advocacy Center. Presentation included State Nursing Home Surveys, updates on My Place, Alzheimer's: A New Reality, 2014 Legislation: More Tolls or Barriers to Advocacy for Residents" and Nursing Home Level of Care and How Medicaid Errors Can Lead to Involuntary Discharge Notices.

Three Ombudsmen were recognized for the many years of service, Peggy Essick with 30 years from the Capital Area Region, LaTrichelle Chisley with 15 years from the North Delta Region and Monica McNeil with 5 years from the CENLA Region. Four new certified Ombudsman were recognized as completing all the necessary training: LaToi Burris-Perkins, Capital, Beverly Gianna, LSU Ag Center, Anna Horn and Betty Tappin from North Delta.

Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA)

Beginning October 2014, Louisiana will be facilitating a 3 year MIPPA grant to assist Medicare eligible individuals with Medicare programs and services. The grant activities for Louisiana will be geared towards Outreach, Education and Assistance with Enrollment into Medicare programs. MIPPA 2014 contracts have been awarded, training has been provided and agencies are now on the ground working hard to reach the Medicare eligible individuals. As a reminder, Medicare Part D Enrollment Period will end December 7, 2014. If you need assistance with Medicare Part D, Low Income Subsidy, Medicare Savings Plan or the Medicare Wellness & Preventative Services, you may contact your regional SenioRx/Aging and Disability Resource Center or you may visit www.LouisianaAnswers.com.

A special "Thank You" to the agencies and organization that hosted the MIPPA 2014 Training Tour: *Allen Council on Aging, Caddo Council on Aging, Cajun Area Agency on Aging, Calcasieu Council on Aging, CENLA Area Agency on Aging, Ouachita Council on Aging, Plaquemines Council on Aging, Rapides Senior Center, Webster Council on Aging, and the LACOADA.*

A **Spotlight** on our **Aging Network**

The Louisiana Councils on Aging Director's Association (LACOADA) elected new officers on November 6, 2014. The new officers are as follows:

President: Al Robicheaux

Vice President: Becky Bergeron

2nd Vice President: Lisa DeRouen

Secretary: Evelyn Lebeau

Treasure: Sabrina Sonnier



The **Caldwell Council on Aging** celebrated Veterans on November 11, 2014 and honored those veterans that are participants at the Council on Aging. The celebration hosted 5 veterans in attendance and concluded with Mr. James Stuart playing the Bag Pipes. For more information about Caldwell Council on Aging activities and events, call 318-649-2584.



The **Cameron Council on Aging** hosted an Older Worker event in September. The COA honored seven Older Workers by presentation of plaques and serving a meal to the winners and their families and friends.

Pictured Back left are C. Benoit, A. Taylor, M. Simon, R. Trahan and Front row: T Booth, L. Jinks and H. Crain.



The **Cameron Council on Aging** has now started a "Balloon" Volleyball team. They are traveling to neighboring cities to compete with others. The participants are "in love" with this new team activity. The annual Christmas celebration will be held in December and will be sponsored by local donations. Each senior in attendance will receive a gift card to Wal-mart for a door prize. Vendors will be available in booths to education the seniors on available services and information. For more information about the activities and events at the Cameron Council on Aging, call 337-598-5158.

The **Concordia Council on Aging** will host their 29th Annual Christmas Party on December 5, 2014 at the Community Center on Hwy 15, Ferriday, LA. For more information about holiday events and activities, contact the Concordia Council on Aging at 318-336-7887.



The **New Orleans Council on Aging** had the 1st Annual Children's Book Drive which was sponsored by Retired Senior Volunteer Program and Senior Companion Program. The NOCOA partnered with the KIPP NOLA (Colton) school to donate books and encourage reading.

For more information about this program, please call New Orleans Council on Aging at 504-821-4121.

The **Rapides Council on Aging** has developed a new project with Health South Rehabilitation Hospital. The Rehabilitation Hospital is sponsoring 2 weekend meals for all home delivered meals clients on all meals routes. This new project will begin Thanksgiving weekend. The additional meals will be on a rotation schedule. For more information about this new project or holiday activities, contact the Rapides Council on Aging at 318-445-7985.



The **Rapides Senior Center** in Pineville is having a little bit of creativity with discarded bottles. For more information about activities and crafts at the Rapides Senior Centers, call 318-448-4013.



The **Saint Mary Council on Aging** seniors have been chosen to lead the Patterson Christmas Parade **AND** to be the Lamplighters for the Franklin Christmas Parade. The Council on Aging will be delivering Thanksgiving baskets which were donated by the Line dancers, Catholic Daughters of Assumption Church and the Soccer teams for Berwick. For more information about Holiday festivities and events, contact the Saint Mary Council on Aging at 337-828-4100 Ext 320.

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