

SOUTHERN TIER TIMES

Retiree Council 11

NYSUT Retirees Southern Tier
Vestal RO (607) 786-5742

Affiliated with: NYSUT ~ AFT ~ NEA

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May/June 2024 EDITION

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President's Message

Dear Fellow Retirees,

Hope that this newsletter finds you in good health and in good spirits. June is upon us. Summer is here! Hurray!

Your Retiree Council 11 has had a very busy and productive year. Many issues important to our retirees have been discussed throughout the year. Our legislators in Albany have been made aware of our concerns through our participation in the Committee of 100 and they have been very receptive and supportive. Our fight to make significant reforms to Tiers 5 and 6 continues. Tiers 5 and 6 MUST BE FIXED!!!

On May 22nd we had an excellent Lunch Bunch Meeting at McGirk's Pub in Chenango Bridge. Our guest speakers Dani LaBare and LeAnn Keim were wonderful and well received by the 55 people who were in attendance. Dani LaBare is the Senior Long Term Care Ombudsman Coordinator advocating for nursing home residents. She explained what her job is and why it is important to work on behalf of seniors living within nursing homes. LeAnn Keim is the new Health Insurance Information and Counseling Program Coordinator for Action for Older Persons. She talked to us about the many important services her office provides.

I would like to thank Judy Mitrowitz and Nadene Sevara for organizing this Lunch Bunch Meeting – finding our speakers, setting up the venue, and just doing such a great job with the entire event.

Earlier this year RC 11 applied for, and was awarded, a Grant of \$1,000 from the NYSUT Retiree Organizing Grant. The purpose of this grant is to help retiree councils expand the amount of retirees who attend regional meetings in hopes that the attendees will become more active (politically and socially) within our retiree council. Having 55 retirees in attendance at this most recent Lunch Bunch Meeting was wonderful and a great success. Timothy O'Brian (our Southern Tier Regional Staff Director) was in attendance at this Lunch Bunch Meeting and made mention of how impressed he was by the number of retirees in attendance.

So – now that summer is here your RC 11 will be taking a well-deserved break until September 9th. Having said that we all know that in our profession there really isn't a true "break" in the action. If any of you have a concern that needs attention do not hesitate to contact me. I will be standing by to help if you need it. My email is – gus1976ike@hotmail.com. Drop me a line and I'll see what I can do to help you out. Thank you for all that you do. Enjoy.

Respectfully yours and in Continued Solidarity,

Tredwell Burch

President – Retiree Council 11

Your Medicare number is valuable. Protect it.

By

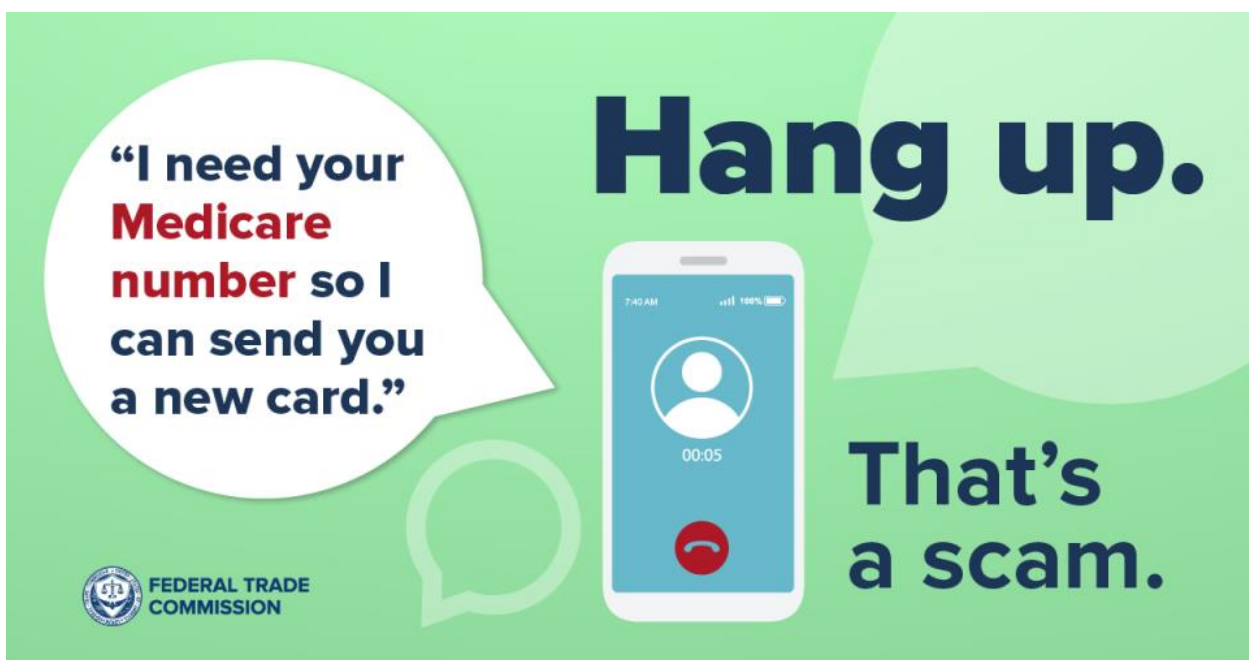
Bridget Small
Consumer Education Specialist
June 5, 2024

Scammers spend their days pretending to be someone they aren't, like government agents or medical staff, to con us out of information and money. That's why we join our friends at the [Senior Medicare Patrol](#) in raising awareness about Medicare imposters during [Medicare Fraud Prevention Week](#). If you or someone you know has Medicare, here's advice to help protect your time, money, and information from Medicare imposters.

Don't share your Medicare number. Your Medicare number is valuable. Don't share it over the phone with anyone for any reason — and scammers have a lot of fake “reasons.” Scammers ask for Medicare numbers to “verify your identity” or to offer you “new plastic cards.” But [Medicare won't call](#) you to verify your card, and Medicare cards are paper, [not plastic](#), and they're free. Other scammers claim they'll send a Medicare-approved back or knee brace if you give them your number. But those are scams, too. If your doctor wants you to have equipment, they'll talk with you about it at an appointment, not have someone call unexpectedly to offer it to you. Report these kinds of scams to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](#).

Check your monthly Medicare statement. Do the details about your recent visits, services, and products match your records and receipts? If not, or your statement shows double charges, charges for something you didn't get, or charges for things your doctor didn't order — like back or knee braces — call your doctor or health plan. If you suspect health care fraud or abuse, contact your state [Senior Medicare Patrol](#).

Report medical identity theft. If you think someone used your information to get medical care, get copies of your medical records from each doctor, hospital, pharmacy, and other place the thief might have used your information. Review the records and tell your provider about any errors. Report the theft at [IdentityTheft.gov](#) and create a plan to recover from problems the identity theft may have caused.



SHIP

State Health Insurance Assistance Program

Federal program - provides unbiased Medicare insurance counseling; available in every county of the country

HIICAP

Health Insurance Information Counseling and Assistance Program

Is the program name in New York

- HIICAP counselors are NOT affiliated with any insurance company, nor do they receive funding from any insurance company
- HIICAP counselors are all state certified and are not allowed to endorse one option over another
- HIICAP counselors explain the various options available
- HIICAP services are free

Action for Older Persons (AOP)

An independent non-profit organization providing unbiased information to Medicare beneficiaries in Broome County

Assistance

To find your county SHIP (NYS HIICAP)

Go to www.shiphelp.org

Click on Ship Locator

Click on New York

Broome County-Action for Older Persons-Endicott

607-722-1251

Chemung County Department of Aging-Elmira

607-737-5520

Steuben County Office for the Aging-Bath

607-664-2298

Tioga County-Tioga Opportunities-Owego

607-687-4120

Tompkins County-Lifelong-Ithaca

607-272-1511

SENIOR HAPPENINGS
Submitted by Tim Cooper, RC 11 Vice President

- CPI rose to 3.4% in April, so six retailers vowed to cut their prices: Aldi, Giant Food Markets, Michaels, Ikea, Walmart, and Target (AARP.org, 5/24/24).
- Election scams are on the uptick as we are approaching a Presidential election. They include voter registration scams, robocalls, donation scams, fake surveys, petitions, and polls. Be very aware that any personal information that you provide may be used to scam you with especially audio responses being suspect. (AARP.org, 5/14/24).
- Older drivers can benefit from five car safety systems now in most new model cars. They are airbags, automatic emergency braking systems, blind spot monitoring systems, rear cross-traffic alerts, and left-hand turn assistance. (AARP.org, 5/2/24)
- As school ends, we know that many of our former colleagues will be retiring and would like to stay active in our Union. Encourage them to attend our Lunch Bunch Meeting in October or become a member of our Steering Committee. (Tim Cooper, 5/30/24)

(Tim Cooper, June, 2024)

Have a safe and an enjoyable summer !!

