



JULY 2011

## AARP MICHIGAN STATE OFFICE NEWS

### A Message from the State Director

Thank you all for giving your time and talent to advance the mission of AARP. As the new State Director for AARP Michigan, I am reminded daily that an engaged volunteer team is critical to our success. I've been with AARP Michigan since 2005, first as Associate State Director, then Manager for State Operations. Over the years I've seen our volunteer corps grow in number and in talent. It is my goal to help continue that development and to redouble our efforts to create an age-friendly Michigan where those 50+ and their families can live, work, play and age with dignity and purpose.

This monthly newsletter is one way your State Office will keep in touch with you. It is important that our volunteers feel connected to the AARP Michigan team. I've read with great interest last month's survey results and understand how important it is that you receive timely and accurate information from our office. Thanks to all who responded to the survey. I'd like to hear from you directly if you have additional thoughts on ways to improve AARP Michigan.



Jacqueline Morrison  
State Director

2011 has been a busy year. AARP is working hard to protect Medicare and Social Security from harmful cuts, advocating to protect Long-term care support and services, educating the 50+ to prevent fraud and abuse, working with local communities to improve housing and mobility options, reaching out to multicultural communities with engagement opportunities, and educating voters on important issues for the 2012 elections.

Important pillars of retirement security - Medicare, Social Security and Pensions – are at risk. Our work is more important now than ever before. Now is the time to act – volunteers, members, and staff. Together, we can make a difference in this great state!

### Help Us Protect Social Security and Medicare

AARP has been fighting for many years to protect and strengthen Social Security and Medicare. We've got a fight on our hands right now in Washington because Congress is considering harmful cuts as part of a deal to pay the nation's bills. We want you to know that these ideas are on the table, and we want our elected officials to drop them. These cuts could increase your health care bills and reduce your Social Security checks. AARP thinks the cuts would be unfair because the benefits were earned over a lifetime of hard work. Yes, Congress needs to make some tough decisions, but they should be responsible decisions. AARP gets it. We understand what Social Security and Medicare mean to older Americans.

We need your help. See the **Call To Action** on page 3!

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## Legislative Updates

AARP MI supports the health insurance claims assessment. We contacted members of our Senate on June 30th and strongly urged them to support SB (Senate Bill) 347 and SB 348. Passage of these bills will provide \$400 million for Medicaid funding and trigger an \$800 million federal match. AARP is pleased to note that the 2012 state budget does not include cuts to the state Medicaid program.



## Fraud Fighter College

AARP Associate State Director Melissa Seifert hosted Fraud Fighter College in Traverse City on June 30 which attracted more than 80 people who heard from five speakers about how to make wise and safe investments and avoid fraud and scams.

*Linda Cena*, of the state Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation, told attendees not to be afraid to “ask questions, ask questions, ask questions” about investment risks, administrative fees, and adviser credentials.

“Consider the source” when using the Internet to explore investment opportunities, added *Angela Branch*, of the state attorney general’s office.

*Erin Leipold*, a U.S. Postal Inspector, warned participants not to mail cash and to “beware of mail made to look like it’s from a government agency.”

*Dianne Shovely*, vice president of fraud services at Comerica Bank, cited many examples of seniors scammed by children or grandchildren. “Make sure people you rely on are people you can really trust,” she said.

*Sue Castle*, 58, of Traverse City, said the free seminar was “sad, but awesome. The speakers really helped to heighten our awareness,” she said. “With all that’s going on out there, we really need it.”

## Upcoming Events

- 7/14: Quarterly Volunteer Meeting — Detroit
- 7/19: AARP Listens to Michigan — Stanton
- 7/20: Fraud Workshop — Detroit
- 7/21: AARP Listens to Michigan — Sturgis
- 7/23: Life Walk with Team AARP— Detroit
- 7/25: CarFit—Grand Rapids
- 7/26: AARP Listens to Michigan—Three Rivers
- 7/26: Meals on Wheels Picnic — Pontiac
- 7/27: Advocacy Boot Camp — East Lansing
- 7/30: Greater Christ Missionary Baptist Church Community Festival and Resource Fair—Detroit
- 8/9: Advocacy Boot Camp — Grand Rapids
- 8/10: Community Shred Events—Detroit
- 8/10: AARP Listens to Michigan—Constantine

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 Multicultural markets and engagement

*The  
 time  
 to act  
 is...  
 NOW!*



### Call to Action!

- Congress needs to hear from you on the issue of cuts to Social Security and Medicare. Be sure your voice is heard by calling Congress toll-free at (888) 722-8514. Urge your friends and family to call, also!

### *In Next Month's Issue:*

- *A Message from the State Director*
- *Upcoming Events*
- *Legislative Updates*
- *Volunteer Spotlight*

*Please provide feedback on this newsletter including topics you'd like to see. Send an e-mail to [miaarp@aarp.org](mailto:miaarp@aarp.org)*

## AARP MICHIGAN

***“What we do, we do for all.”***

-Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus

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### Our Mission

AARP is working to help Americans 50+ in Michigan live life to the fullest. We advocate for our members on critical priorities, such as strengthening Social Security, protecting seniors' access to their doctors, and ensuring all Americans have independence and choice as they age.

AARP serves as a one-stop resource for information on the 50+ population in Michigan and public opinion research. In addition to serving as a clearinghouse for information about older Americans, we also offer programs and tools that help Americans 50+ make the best decisions about their health and financial security.

### Did You Know?

- The total number of AARP members in Michigan: 1,401,434
- 72% of Michigan residents 50+ voted in the last election
- Social Security Beneficiaries in Michigan: 1,905,342
- Social Security recipients who rely on Social Security for 90% or more of their income: 21.2%
- Social Security recipients who rely on Social Security for 50% or more of their income: 54.2%
- Medicare Beneficiaries in Michigan: 1,636,281
- Percent of non-government workers (aged 55-64) without workplace retirement benefits: 35.6%