



MONDAY ALERT

New York State Alliance *for* Retired Americans

800 Troy Schenectady Rd., Latham, NY 12110 | 518-783-6231 | www.newyorkstateara.org

October 12, 2026

The Monday Alert is published weekly by NYSARA. If you received a forwarded copy and would like to join our mailing list, email NYSARA at president@newyorkstateara.org with your name, email address and your home zip code.

We will not share your information outside of NYSARA.

For Comptroller - Tom DiNapoli (D)

ARA/NYSARA Congressional District Endorsements

3 Rep. Thomas Suozzi
5 Rep. Gregory Meeks
6 Rep. Grace Meng
8 Rep. Hakeem Jeffries
9 Rep. Yvette Clarke
14 Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
15 Rep. Ritchie Torres
16 Rep. George Latimer
18 Rep. Patrick Ryan
19 Rep. Josh Riley
20 Rep. Paul Tonko
21 Blake Gendebien
22 Rep. John Mannion
25 Rep. Joseph Morelle
26 Rep. Timothy Kennedy

Western New York Chapter of NYSARA Participates in Health and Resource Fair for Older Adults



Western NY Chapter of NYSARA Coalition members participated in today's Health & Resource Fair for older adults. Much useful & previously unknown to us information was presented.

Capital District Chapter of NYSARA Holds Program Detailing Essential Information That New York Seniors Need to Know About Medicare Rights and Benefits



NYSARA President Barry Kaufmann presented a wide-ranging program on Medicare, Medicaid to the Capital District NYSARA chapter.

The program provided valuable insights about how to protect and get the most out of your health care rights and benefits and the options available to you. Medicare programs provides millions of New York Seniors with essential health care coverage.

If you have any questions about your Medicare coverage and options for your health care, you can access free, unbiased and confidential counseling through the Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance program (HICAP) at [1-800 701-0501](tel:1-800-701-0501) or via NY Connects at [1-800- 342-9871](tel:1-800-342-9871).

Pictured: Capital District NYRSARA Chapter officers Jack Rohl and Sandie Carner-Shafran with NYSARA President Barry Kaufmann and program participants.
(Photo)

NYSARA Holds Online Orientation for "Stop the Scam" Trainers - Volunteer Trainers Still Needed Statewide

NYSARA held its first online orientation for Stop the Scam Volunteer presenter as part of its efforts to build a network of presenters statewide who can present the program in their local communities to union and other senior audiences. If you would like to volunteer to become a Stop the Scam Presenter, email president@newyorkstateara.org.

"Stop the Scam" Program Presented to NYSUT RC 10

On Thursday October 8 at NYSUT headquarters NYSARA President Barry Kaufmann presented "Stop the Scam" to the NYSUT Retiree Council 10. About 50 members of the Capital Region's NYSUT retirees attended this presentation. There were many questions and scam stories shared and President Kaufmann had many inquiries about future "Stop the Scam" presentations.

Early Voting is Already Under Way - Be Sure to Make a Plan to Vote Now

You have many Options for voting in New York but it's necessary to learn the facts and make a plan to be sure your vote counts! Casting your ballot is a fundamental right of American Democracy. Don't take it for granted!

New York has both absentee and early voting by mail or pick up mail in ballots at your county Board of elections if you request mail in ballots (You can also return those ballots directly to your county board of elections office or by mail).

You can also cast your ballot via in-person early voting in your district or at your county's Board of Elections Office from October 24 to November 1. You can also, of course, cast your ballot in your local Voting place on Election Day Nov. 3. Plan in advance about how you will vote

You should ensure and protect your right to vote by knowing the facts and you can always get valid information from the NYS Board of Elections with links to your County Board of Elections: <https://elections.ny.gov/>

State Updates From our Friends at LiveOn NY

HEAP Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement (HERR) benefit now open.

OTDA opened the HEAP-funded HERR benefit on October 1, 2026. Eligible homeowners can receive help repairing or replacing a furnace, boiler, or other direct heating equipment needed to keep their home's primary heat source working. Benefit amounts are based on actual cost, up to \$4,000 for a repair and \$8,000 for a replacement. The Public Utility Law Project (PULP) has shared social media graphics in English and Spanish. Click [here](#) for more information.

DOH webinar on HR-1 Medicaid changes, October 13. The state is hosting a standalone virtual session on federal HR-1 changes and their impact on Medicaid programs. Jason Carey of DOH will present on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, 11:00 AM–12:00 PM ET, on Zoom. [Register here](#).

Support Guardianship in NYS. LiveOn NY is supporting the [Statewide Initiative of Nonprofit Guardians \(SING\)](#) advocacy to include \$7million in the New York State 2028 budget to ensure the whole state can be covered to provide guardians for those who need them. There are currently 34 counties who receive no funding, putting the most vulnerable in serious jeopardy and straining the nonprofit providers who do this without charge. To support this effort, you can adapt SING's template letter to send your own letter to the Governor: See template [here](#).

Federal Updates

2027 Social Security COLA Expected to Increase: The Social Security Administration is set to announce the 2027 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) on October 14. Current projections put the increase at approximately 3.5%, up from 2.8% in 2026, which would mean roughly \$73 more per month for the average retired worker beginning January 2027. See the latest projection from CNBC [here](#).

Medicare Open Enrollment Begins October 15: Medicare's Annual Enrollment Period opens October 15 and runs through December 7, giving approximately 68 million

enrollees the opportunity to review and change their coverage for 2027. Please share this with the older New Yorkers you serve and encourage them to compare plan options at [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov).

Farm Bill: Senate Floor Vote Expected in November: Following the Senate Agriculture Committee's party-line passage of the Farm Bill in September, a full Senate floor vote is now expected in November. A key sticking point remains how quickly states would be required to absorb a larger share of SNAP administrative costs, with advocates pushing for a longer phase-in period. See more from Civil Eats [here](#) and FRAC [here](#).

Medicare Rebates Announced: The federal administration has announced one-time payments of \$90 to more than 20 million Medicare beneficiaries. **These rebates are to be drawn from the Medicare Improvement Fund, a \$2 billion congressional appropriation that was established in 2008 to improve Medicare by adjusting payments to providers and suppliers and managing program operations. Per the administration, payments will be distributed via direct deposit in early October.** See more from The Hill [here](#).

Congressional Budget Office: Without Congressional Action, 2032 Automatic Social Security Cuts Will be Steeper

Raising the stakes in the midterm elections, [a new report](#) from the Congressional Budget Office says that all monthly Social Security benefits will be cut by 26 percent, rather than the previously projected 22 percent – a total of nearly \$600 less per month for the average beneficiary.

74 million Americans [currently receive](#) Social Security benefits, including nearly 58 million older Americans.

"Any cut to the benefits Americans work a lifetime to earn is unacceptable," said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. "We must elect people to Congress who are willing to act and make the wealthy pay their fair share into Social Security to strengthen it for everyone."

Register Now: Join us at the Alliance's Annual Retirement Security

Symposium on November 10

The Alliance is pleased to invite you to attend our annual Retirement Security Symposium which will take place on **Tuesday, November 10, 2026 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM** at AFL-CIO headquarters in Washington, DC. It will also be streamed online.

The event brings together labor movement leaders, policy experts, and retirees to discuss key important retirement security issues.

Speakers will include AFL-CIO President **Liz Shuler** and Secretary-Treasurer **Fred Redmond**; PBGC Participant and Plan Sponsor Advocate **Anne Henderson**, National United Committee to Protect Pensions President **Ken Stribling**, and AFL-CIO Corporations and Capital Markets Deputy Director **Brandon Rees**. The symposium will include a discussion of the next steps for strengthening Social Security called "The Solvency Clock: Strengthening Social Security Before 2032" and one on online scams called "Clicks to Accountability: Defending Seniors from AI-Powered Social Media Scams."

To RSVP, please fill out this form, and indicate if you will attend in person or virtually. [Please click here to register.](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Joni Jones at jjones@retiredamericans.org / [202-637-5377](tel:202-637-5377).

Trump Administration Raids Medicare Fund to Send One-Time \$90 Payments to Beneficiaries

On Thursday, President **Donald Trump** [sent an email](#) alerting some Medicare beneficiaries that they will receive a one-time payment of \$90. The Administration took \$2 billion from Medicare's [Improvement Fund](#) – which is meant for improvements to Medicare's hospital and medical insurance programs (Part A and Part B) – in order to make the payments.

Retiree advocates immediately slammed the move, pointing out a one-time payment will do little to lower costs or off-set rising Medicare premiums.

"Politicizing Medicare by sending checks right before an election is shameful," **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance, told the [*Washington Post*](#). "Seniors can see through this hollow ploy."

