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### **2011 Older Americans Month Theme**

The theme for Older Americans Month (OAM) 2011 is ***Older Americans: Connecting the Community***. Details on Administration on Aging-sponsored OAM celebrations to take place in May are forthcoming.

### **Kathleen Otte Appointed As Regional Administrator of Regions I, II, & III**

The Administration on Aging (AoA) is pleased to announce that Kathleen Otte, the current State Unit Director of New Hampshire, has been selected to become the new Regional Administrator for Regions I, II, & III. Kathleen's start date at the New York Regional office will be January 24, 2011. Ms. Otte brings a wealth of experience and knowledge into this position, not only does she come to AoA with valuable State Unit experience, she also has many years of administrative experience in the operation of LTC and Assistant Living facilities. We are excited about Ms. Otte's employment and we welcome her to AoA.

### **AoA to Launch Affordable Care Act Webinar Series**

Throughout 2011, the Administration on Aging (AoA) will host a series of webinars focused on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA) and its impact on the aging network.

The first session in this training series, **Care Transitions: What Do These Programs Look Like? And How Can the Aging Network Play a Role?**, will offer an overview of current evidence-based care transitions models, the role that the aging network can play in care transition programs, and why this work is so important for the aging network. It is scheduled for Monday, January 24 2-3:30 pm Eastern. To register for this webinar:

1. Go to <https://aoa-events.webex.com/aoa-events/onstage/g.php?d=665306726&t=a&EA=marisa.scalefoley%40aoa.hhs.gov&ET=4d0a199200ae081e1af16b24afb8538a&ETR=198968e0f4953caa22a0822bbcb087fb&RT=MIMxMQ==&p>
2. Click "Register".
3. On the registration form, enter your information and then click "Submit".

Once your registration is approved, you will receive a confirmation email message with instructions on how to join the event.

### **AoA Launches New Affordable Care Act Newsletter**

The Administration on Aging (AoA) recently introduced *Affordable Care Act News*, a new electronic newsletter devoted to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and the impact on the Aging Network.

Through this newsletter, you can:

- Learn about upcoming funding and training opportunities,
- Find relevant notices in the Federal Register, and
- Hear from others across the country about their involvement in putting health care reform into action.

To have your name added to the mailing list, please send an email to [aoainfo@aoa.gov](mailto:aoainfo@aoa.gov)

### **AoA's January Statistics Widget and New Health E-Cards**

Do you know what percent of older adults exercise regularly in the U.S.? AoA's January widget features recent exercise statistics for older adults. To learn more, view AoA's aging statistics widget at [http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Site\\_Uilities/Widget/index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Site_Uilities/Widget/index.aspx). You can share this data with visitors to your site by clicking the "Share" button on the widget to access the code of the widget.

While on AoA's social media page [http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press\\_Room/Social\\_Media/index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Social_Media/index.aspx), be sure to check AoA's health e-cards. New e-cards highlight the benefits of doing volunteer work and the variety of volunteer opportunities available to individuals. You can view AoA's volunteerism e-cards at [http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press\\_Room/Social\\_Media/eCards/volunteerism.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Social_Media/eCards/volunteerism.aspx). You'll also find flu e-cards that you can send to encourage friends and family to get their flu shots. For AoA's flu-e-cards see [http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press\\_Room/Social\\_Media/eCards/flu.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Social_Media/eCards/flu.aspx).

If you have any questions or comments on our social media content, feel free to contact [Augustina.Howe@aoa.hhs.gov](mailto:Augustina.Howe@aoa.hhs.gov).

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### **Other HHS News**

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#### **New Legislation Establishes National Alzheimer's Project within HHS**

Recent passage by Congress of the National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA) will lead to the creation of a national strategic plan to overcome the Alzheimer's disease epidemic, currently the seventh leading cause of death in the United States. It would also establish an inter-agency council to work with the Health

and Human Services Secretary to give a full assessment of what needs to be done to address the threat of Alzheimer's on multiple fronts including care, research and support. NAPA would ensure strategic planning and coordination of the fight against Alzheimer's across the federal government as a whole.

To read the statement about the Act from HHS Secretary Sebelius, please go to <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/12/20101215b.html>

To learn more about this new legislation, please go to the Alzheimer's Association link, [http://www.alz.org/documents\\_custom/final\\_napa\\_statement\\_3-12152010.pdf](http://www.alz.org/documents_custom/final_napa_statement_3-12152010.pdf)

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## **More News**

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### **Reminder: ASA Accepting Applications for Leadership Program**

February 15 is the deadline for submitting an application for the 2011-2012 class of New Ventures in Leadership Program (NVL). Sponsored by the American Society on Aging (ASA), NVL is a 12-month program that champions the leadership potential of professionals of color and their critical role in the field of aging.

To learn more about the program and to access the application, please go to <http://www.asaging.org/nvl/index.cfm>

### **Next ASA Web Seminar to Focus on In-Home Care**

The next seminar in the American Society on Aging (ASA)-sponsored Family Caregiver Support Web Seminar Series is scheduled for Wednesday, February 9 at 1:00 p.m. Eastern. The topic will be *How to Select an In-Home Care Provider*. Attendees will learn how to determine when home care is needed, as well as how to have a conversation with older adults about the necessary extra care. Guidelines in selecting the best provider are also discussed.

To learn more about this web seminar and to register for the session, please go to <http://www.asaging.org/webseminars/index.cfm>

### **Upcoming NCEA-NAPSA Webcast**

The **National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA)** and National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) will jointly host its first Quarterly Webcast of 2011 on Monday, January 31, 2011 at 1 PM Eastern Standard Time. The topic will be *Public Policy, Elder Abuse, and Adult Protective Services: The Struggle for Coherence* and the presenter will be Paula M. Mixon.

For more details, including how to register, please visit the NCEA website at [http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/ncearoot/Main\\_Site/index.aspx](http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/ncearoot/Main_Site/index.aspx) or the NAPSA website at <http://www.apsnetwork.org/>

### **New Report Spotlights Elders Living in Poverty**

According to findings in a recent report from the Alliance for Children and Families, half of America's elderly will spend at least one year in poverty. In the report, *Aging in Poverty: A Call to Action*, researchers also note that 18% of Americans will have experienced poverty by the age of 70, 29% by the age of 80, and 41% by the age of 90.

To download a copy of the report, please go to <http://www.familiesinsociety.org/new/SpecialIssue/AgingInPoverty/AgingInPoverty.pdf>

To learn more about the Alliance for Children and Families, <http://alliance1.org/>

### **PBS to Air Documentary *Over 90 and Loving It***

PBS will air the new documentary, *Over 90 and Loving It*, which features real stories of people in their 90s and 100s, in early 2011. The film chronicles the lives of athletes, musicians, politicians, advocates, and more, who are not aware of chronological age at all, but live as though the future and youth spring eternal.

To learn more about the documentary, including showtimes, please go to <http://www.over90film.com/>

The DVD of the documentary will be available for sale on January 30.

### **AARP Survey Shows Boomers Are Largely Satisfied with Their Lives**

A recent survey of boomers who will turn 65 in 2011 commissioned by AARP show that 78 percent of the oldest boomers, those turning 65 in 2011, are satisfied with the way things are going in their lives today. The survey, *Approaching 65: A Survey of Baby Boomers Turning 65 Years Old*, also showed that overall, 70 percent of baby boomers say they have achieved all or most of what they wanted out of life. 26 percent say they have achieved some of what they wanted. Only three percent say they have achieved little or none of what they wanted out of life. Words used to describe their feelings about the next five years included exciting, fulfilling, confident, hopeful and optimistic.

To read the complete survey findings, please go to [https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=explorer&chrome=true&srcid=0B\\_n3](https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=explorer&chrome=true&srcid=0B_n3)

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## **Treasury to Phase Out Paper Checks by 2013**

The Department of the Treasury recently announced it will phase out paper checks for Federal government benefits by March 1, 2013. This new rule will extend the safety and convenience of electronic payments to millions of Americans. People who do not have electronic payments for their federal benefits by that time will receive their funds via a pre-paid debit card. Called the Direct Express® Debit MasterCard® card, it is issued by Comerica Bank as the financial agent of the U.S. Treasury.

To learn more about the Federal government's switch to direct deposit or to change benefits to direct deposit, please visit <http://www.GoDirect.org>. Information about the federal government's "Go Direct" campaign is also available at 1-800-333-1795.

## **First Time Recipients of Federal Benefits to Receive Payments Electronically**

Persons applying for federal benefits for the first time from six agencies on or after May 1, 2011, will receive their payments through direct deposit to their bank or credit union account or to a Direct Express® Debit MasterCard® card. The programs affected include the Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Income, Veterans Affairs, Railroad Retirement Board, Office of Personnel Management, and Department of Labor (Black Lung).

To learn more about this change, please visit <http://www.godirect.org/media/about/fact-sheet-direct-deposit-federal-benefits/>

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## **Submit a Story!**

Do you have a story about ....Click on the link below to share your story with us, and it may appear on our website or in this newsletter!  
[http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press\\_Room/For\\_The\\_Press/medadv/Share\\_Story.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/For_The_Press/medadv/Share_Story.aspx)

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## **Conferences**

Stay up to date with the latest aging meetings and conferences by visiting the AoA events calendar at:  
[http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press\\_Room/events/events\\_List\\_Day.aspx#title](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/events/events_List_Day.aspx#title)

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