



Florida Association of
Aging Services Providers

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Florida Association of Aging Services Providers

Guest Editors: Ken Thomas, AARP Florida

Message from the President

By Darrell J. Drummond, Council on Aging of St. Lucie, Inc.



I am still reveling in the success of the 2023 Florida Council on Aging/ Florida Association of Aging Services Providers (FCOA/FASP) Annual Conference that took place August 7-9th. This marks the twenty-eighth (28th) year that I have had the opportunity to participate in this Conference and I believe it was possibly the greatest conference we have convened on senior advocacy for Florida yet! We are deeply appreciative of the Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) for their active participation in the Conference and the uplifting remarks delivered by our Secretary, Michelle Branham. It is my sincere hope that this event underscores the vital importance of maintaining the strong partnership between our senior network and the Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA).

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This Issue's Sponsors



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I am grateful for the opportunity to see and interact with many of you during the Conference. The event was brimming with exceptional keynote speeches and enriching workshops. This year's program, including its various events and networking opportunities, offered valuable insights on how to enhance, expand, and sharpen our focus on advocating for and serving seniors within our State. This is why I believe the annual FCOA/FASP Conference on Aging serves as a fantastic platform for us to come together, share knowledge, learn from one another, and take this newfound wisdom back to our communities to better support those in need.

I'm pleased to announce the addition of new members to the Florida Association of Aging Services Provider's Board of Directors: Tom Kammerdener, from Brevard County, President & CEO of Aging Matters, and Nicole Egan, Director of Care Services with Aging True in Jacksonville. Furthermore, we are proud to acknowledge Jennifer Martinez, Executive Director of Marion Senior Services in Ocala, who has been elected as 2nd Vice President of the Board and will now serve on the Executive Committee for our Association.

As I age, I'm increasingly aware of the profound impact that the loss of family members and friends has on my overall happiness. This reminds me of how truly blessed I am to have had the opportunity to cherish the relationships that are so important within this network. While we all understand that our time on this Earth is finite, we also realize that we have the present opportunity to live, love, and embrace life, both as individuals and as a community. I dearly miss those who I can no longer turn to for assistance, but I am grateful to have had an opportunity to work with each of them for the betterment of our communities.

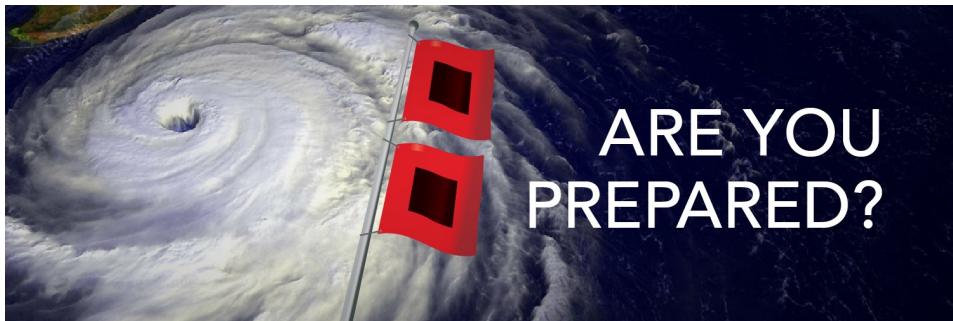
In a moment of personal reflection and gratitude, let me say, "Thank you, Tom Duggar, for your friendship, and for your unconditional love and support for the seniors of the State of Florida."

Tom Duggar, husband of Margaret Lynn Duggar for 56 years, died on July 1, 2023.

Darrell Drummond



AARP Florida Extends Support with Comprehensive Hurricane Preparedness Resources



AARP Florida has released many resources to help those who need it most prepare for the next big storm. This article includes hurricane resources including tips, checklists, video libraries, and social media accounts to follow to stay informed. AARP's commitment to providing up-to-date information shines through their webpage which is frequently updated, while their Facebook page also serves as a excellent resource for the latest updates. Here's a glimpse of the hurricane preparedness resources AARP Florida has made available on their site:

1. **Special Needs Registry Information:** A crucial tool aiding first responders in safeguarding the most vulnerable members of our community before, during, and after a storm.
2. **Emergency Preparedness Checklist for Adults Age 50+:** Tailored guidance to help mature adults prepare effectively for emergency situations.
3. **Generator Safety Videos:** Equip yourself with knowledge on how to utilize generators safely, ensuring protection from harmful fumes.
4. **Government Assistance Resources:** Explore avenues for governmental support during and after a storm, helping you navigate through challenging times.
5. **Ways to Donate:** Discover meaningful ways to contribute and make a difference in the lives of those affected by hurricanes.

All resources can be found on AARP Florida's Disaster Help site

[Click here to read the full article](#)



White House and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Host Inflation Reduction Act Roundtable with National Pharmacy Leaders

White House and HHS host discussion on how pharmacies can work together to bring awareness to President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act in effort to educate consumers

Officials from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently convened a roundtable discussion at the White House with leaders from prominent pharmacy chains and associations such as CVS, Walgreens, and the American Pharmacists Association among others. The meeting aimed to explore ways pharmacies can join forces with the Biden-Harris Administration to inform consumers about the latest Medicare prescription drug benefits introduced under the Inflation Reduction Act. The event featured key figures including HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra, Neera Tanden, Director of the Domestic Policy Council, and Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Who are urging these pharmacies and associations to actively engage in educating their clients and local communities about the recently established prescription drug benefits. The letter outlined various recommended actions, such as incorporating educational materials in pharmacy locations, on websites, and through social media platforms. Additionally, pharmacies were encouraged to collaborate with community organizations, participate in public awareness campaigns, identify eligible customers, and train staff to address queries related to the new legislation. It is important for beneficiaries to be well-informed about their entitlements under the Inflation Reduction Act and that is what the purpose of this gathering was.



[Click here to read the full Press Release](#)

To read more about the Biden Administration's Inflation Reduction Act and the Extra Help Program
[Please click here](#)

FASP MEMBER IN THE NEWS!

United HomeCare, AVUS Connect, FPL, and Other Community Partners Distribute Hurricane Preparedness Kits to Seniors in Miami-Dade County

United HomeCare and AVUS Connect teamed up with Florida Power & Light to pack and deliver 2,460 hurricane preparedness kits to vulnerable seniors in Miami-Dade County this year. The kits contained three days of shelf-stable and nutritious food, water, and snacks.

"In the coming weeks, United HomeCare and FPL will deliver in total 2,460 hurricane preparedness kits containing 7,380 meals to vulnerable seniors in Miami-Dade County. Working with FPL, Florida Council on Aging, and community collaborators, including the YMCA Village of Allapattah, YWCA at Miami Gardens Family Center, Thelma Gibson Health Initiative senior programs, and St. Mary's Tower, we will help vulnerable seniors get ready for this hurricane season," said Carlos L. Martinez, President & CEO, United HomeCare. This generous donation of Hurricane Preparedness Meal Kits was made possible by Florida Power & Light/NextEra Energy and partnership with the Florida Council on Aging.

United HomeCare® is a non-profit 501(c)(3) home and community-based organization providing care to the most vulnerable populations in South Florida. United HomeCare has initiated Phase I of Emergency Disaster Planning, including providing meals and supplies, to ensure their 3,500 clients and 1,000 employees are prepared this hurricane season.



United HomeCare, AVUS Connect, and AVUS Tech Pals volunteers and interns worked with FPL, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Rene Garcia, and Hope Mission Center to deliver Hurricane Preparedness Meal Kits to seniors living in Hialeah's Patterson Senior Housing and La Esperanza Senior Housing.



Recent Law Change in Vote by Mail for Florida Voters in 2024 Elections

There has been a recent change in Florida law that impacts the process of voting by mail in the upcoming 2024 Presidential Preference Primary, Primary, and General Elections. Please share this information with staff, community members, friends, and family who may not be aware of this change.

Recent Change in Florida Law: Expiry of Vote-by-Mail Ballot Requests

According to the new Florida law, all Vote-by-Mail ballot requests now expire after each general election. This means that if you wish to vote by mail in the 2024 elections, you must submit a new request for each election—Presidential Preference Primary, Primary, and General Elections.

Take Action Now: Request Your Vote-by-Mail Ballots

To ensure that you receive your Vote-by-Mail ballot for the 2024 elections, we encourage you to submit your requests to your County Supervisor of Elections as soon as possible!

Steps to Request Your Vote-by-Mail Ballot:

1. Locate your County's Supervisor of Elections [Click here for list of all Counties](#).
2. Locate the "Vote by Mail" section and follow the instructions provided to request a Vote-by-Mail ballot.
3. You may request a vote-by-mail ballot in person, by mail, email, fax or by phone.
4. Complete the necessary forms and submit your request for all elections: Presidential Preference Primary, Primary, and General Elections.

If you have any inquiries or concerns about the Vote-by-Mail process, please don't hesitate to contact your County Supervisor of Election Office and they will gladly assist you.



A New Medicare Proposal Would Cover Training for Family Caregivers

By: *Judith Graham*, Kaiser Health News, August 18, 2023

The federal government is proposing having Medicare pay professionals to train family caregivers how to perform tasks like bathing and dressing their loved ones, and properly use medical equipment.

Even with extensive caregiving experience, Patti LaFleur was unprepared for the crisis that hit in April 2021, when her mother, Linda LaTurner, fell out of a chair and broke her hip.

LaTurner, 71, had been diagnosed with early-onset dementia seven years before. For two years, she'd been living with LaFleur, who managed insulin injections for her mother's Type 1 diabetes, helped her shower and dress, dealt with her incontinence, and made sure she was eating well.

In the hospital after her mother's hip replacement, LaFleur was told her mother would never walk again. When LaTurner came home, two emergency medical technicians brought her on a stretcher into the living room, put her on the bed LaFleur had set up, and wished LaFleur well.

That was the extent of help LaFleur received upon her mother's discharge.



Patti LaFleur with her mother, Linda LaTurner

[**Click here to read the full article**](#)

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KFF Health News is a national newsroom that produces in-depth journalism about health issues and is one of the core operating programs at KFF — the independent source for health policy research, polling, and journalism.



AARP Poll: Voters 50-Plus Want Candidates Who Support Help for Caregivers

By: Dena Bunis, [AARP](#)

Voters 50-plus overwhelmingly are looking to elected officials to pay attention and help the tens of millions of [family caregivers](#) meet the challenges they face every day in caring for their loved ones, according to the results of a new AARP poll of likely voters in the 40 most competitive U.S. House of Representatives districts.

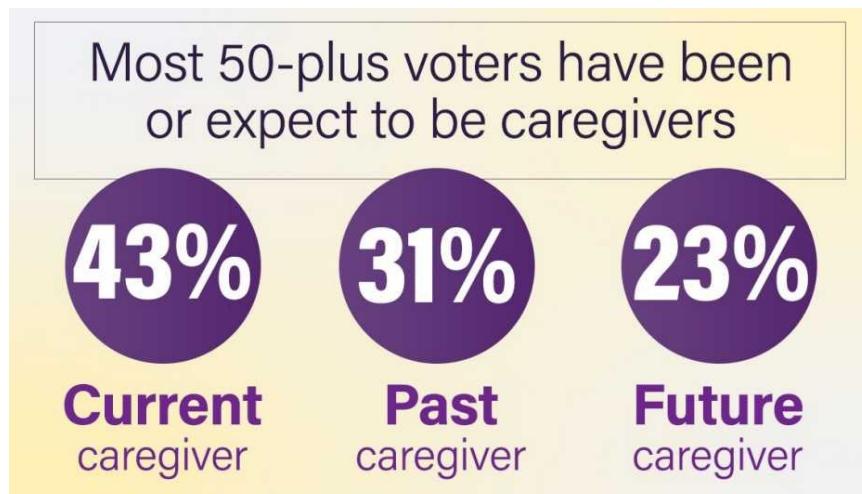
The survey also found that older voters are concerned about threats to America's democracy, Social Security and Medicare, and pocketbook issues such as the economy, jobs and inflation.

The AARP poll surveyed 1,752 likely 2024 general election voters in 40 U.S. House of Representatives districts considered to be among the most competitive in the country. A bipartisan team of pollsters — Fabrizio Ward and Impact Research — conducted the survey via landline, cellphone and online from July 5 to July 11. The team polled an oversample of 50-plus voters, bringing to 1,200 the number of older voters interviewed. The survey's margin of error is plus or minus 2.8 percent.

Family caregivers a factor for 2024

The AARP survey shows that a strong majority of all likely voters and even more 50-plus voters either are family caregivers, have been a caregiver or expect to be a caregiver. AARP estimates that 53 million Americans are caregivers, and experts say these voters could become a real force in the 2024 election.

[Click here to read the full article](#)



Humana | Healthy Horizons™

**Congratulations Tammy Lampi!
Humana Healthy Horizons & FASP
Best Direct Service Employee of the Year Award Winner**



Congratulations to Tammy Lampi, Program Manager at the Palm Beach County Division of Senior and Veterans Services in West Palm Beach for her selection as the Humana Healthy Horizons Best Direct Service Employee of the Year. The award was announced at the Florida Conference on Aging on August 9, 2023 at the Hyatt Regency Orlando. The award included a one year membership in FASP, a Full Conference registration, and one night stay at the Hyatt Regency Orlando. In Addition \$500.00 will be awarded to Ms. Lampi and \$500.00 for Palm Beach County Division of Senior and Veterans Services in West Palm Beach for nominating her!



Dr. Avra Carpousis-Bowers, Humana, Tammy Lampi & Darrell Drummond, FASP President

Past Best Direct Service Employee of the Year Award Winners

2022 Brian Taylor	2019 Lizbeth Miguel	2015 Sherry Tucker
2022 Shane Swords	2018 Carole Ware	2014 Toula Wootan
2021 Frances Brea Duran	2017 Ed Gines	2013 Paulette Kozlowski
2020 Belkys Poueriet	2016 Paula Jory	2012 Lori Radice



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US AT THE FLORIDA CONFERENCE ON AGING 2023!

Thank you so much to all our FASP Members & Sponsors that participated at the 2023 Conference on Aging! We could not have done it without all of YOU!

SAVE THE DATE! Florida Conference on Aging 2024
August 5-7, 2024—Hyatt Regency, Orlando, FL



[2024 FCOA Conference Sponsor & Exhibitor Brochure](#)

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