



ADVOCATES for Senior Issues



Membership Meeting
Friday, February 21, 2020
Frederik Meijer Garden & Sculpture Park
1000 E. Beltline Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI



9:00 am - Strategy Group
10:00 am - General Meeting



AGENDA

Call to Order and Announcements: Lody Zwarenstejn, President



**Donald
Behrenwald**

Legislative Presentation

Representative Rachel Hood (D - 76)

State Representative Rachel Hood is serving her first term representing the 76th House District, which covers a large section of the city of Grand Rapids. Hood has spent her career developing, financing and implementing innovative urban investment, water protection and energy conservation solutions. She is a graduate of Michigan State University's James Madison College, where she earned a degree in Public Policy.

**Chris
Becker**



Program Presentation

Advocates Needed: Inequities Persist

Dr. Khan Nedd, Medical Director
Micah Foster, Executive Director
Grand Rapids African American Health Institute

The presentation will explore root causes of inequities in housing, education, and healthcare which impact citizens. Participants will also learn about the history and efforts of the Health Institute to eliminate inequities in our system.



Next Meeting: March 20, 2020

Frederik Meijer Gardens

Advocates for Senior Issues is a non-partisan organization, affiliated with the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan



AFSI Executive Committee**AFSI Legislative Committee**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>E-Mail Address</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>E-Mail Address</i>
Thomas Appel	(616) 747-1290	tappel1864@aol.com	Both committees		
Lois Carey	(616) 942-9811	lois.m.carey@gmail.com			
Mary Copeland	(616) 243-3035	penbeep87@gmail.com			
Evans DeVries	(616) 240-1486	ecdevries@yahoo.com	Both committees		
Bob Dunlap	(616) 791-1267	bobd712@att.net	Both committees		
Phil France	(616) 698-6314	pfrance61@gmail.com			
Judy France	(616) 698-6314	judy_france@yahoo.com			
Lois Williams	(616) 591-3625	lois@wmmi.net			
Kathy Larson	(616) 295-0952	larsonkathlyn@gmail.com			
Gordon Pater	(616) 453-9669	go_pat740@yahoo.com			
Ginger Randall	(616) 581-5142	rginger98@yahoo.com			
Armand Robinson	(616) 949-6585	rob2736@aol.com	Both committees		
Jan Schultz	(616) 538-6008	janwyoming@comcast.net			
Lody Zwarenstejn	(616) 581-2261	lody6290@gmail.com			
Leslie Sanford	(616) 329-3141	leslie@lesliesanfordcpa.com			
			Ruth Kelly	(616) 238-9370	ruthkelly@yahoo.com
			Frank Lynn	(616) 942-8067	paco3446@aol.com

AAAWM Staff

Jackie O'Connor	(616) 222-7002	Jackie@aaawm.org
Lacey Charboneau	(616) 222-7015	lacey@aaawm.org

<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>800Number</i>	<i>E-Mail Address</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Governor's Office				
Whitmer, Gretchen	(517) 373-3400		Gretchen.Whitmer@MIEOG.ORG	(517) 335-7858 - Constituent Services
Michigan Representatives				
Johnson, Steve-72	(517) 373-0840		SteveJohnson@house.mi.gov	
Afendoulis, Lynn-73	(517) 373-0218		LynnAfendoulis@house.mi.gov	
Huizenga, Mark-74	(517) 373-8900		MarkHuizenga@house.mi.gov	
David LaGrand - 75	(517)-373-2668		DavidLaGrand@house.mi.gov	
Hood, Rachel-76	(517) 373-0822		RachelHood@house.mi.gov	
Brann, Tommy-77	(517) 373-2277		TommyBrann@house.mi.gov	
Albert, Thomas-86	(517) 373-0846		ThomasAlbert@house.mi.gov	
Michigan Senators				
Nesbitt, Aric-26	(517) 373-0793		SenANesbitt@senate.michigan.gov	
Brinks, Winnie-29	(517) 373-1801		SenWBrinks@senate.michigan.gov	
MacGregor, Peter-28	(517) 373-0797		SenPMacGregor@senate.michigan.gov	
U.S. Representatives				
Amash, Justin-3	(202) 225-3831		Through Website: https://amash.house.gov/contact-me	
Huizenga, Bill-2	(202) 225-4401		Through Website: https://huizenga.house.gov/contact-me/email-me	
U.S. Senators				
Peters, Gary	(313) 226-6020		Peter_Dickow@peters.senate.gov	
Stabenow, Debbie	(616) 975-0052		senator@stabenow.senate.gov	

Kent County Officialswww.accesskent.com/Departments

Save the Date:

Older Michiganians Day

— **May 12, 2020** —

A Statewide Advocacy Event for Michigan's Older Adults!



OLDER MICHIGANIANS DAY

WHAT IS IT ?

Older Michiganians Day (OMD) is an annual FREE event that brings together hundreds of older adults, service providers and senior advocates. OMD is an opportunity for older Michiganians to share a unified voice with elected officials; expressing the concerns, challenges and potential initiatives for older adults.

What will I do during the event?

- Rally on the Capitol Lawn
- Hear Remarks from Legislative Leaders
- Meet with your Legislators
- Eat a free delicious boxed lunch

When is the event?

Older Michiganians Day is on
Tuesday, May 12, 2020
10:30 am—1:30 pm (*tentative*)

For more information contact your local Area Agency on Aging or the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan at OMD@4ami.org.

To see information about the platform and other details visit our website at

www.oldermichiganiansday.com

How can I attend?

For registration and information on obtaining a free ticket for a boxed lunch, **contact your local Area Agency on Aging** or the Area Agency on Aging Association of Michigan. 616-222-7042

Where is the event held?

OMD is held on the East Lawn of the State Capitol Building, Lansing





ROBOCALLS

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Never provide your personal information including:

- name;
- address;
- birthdate;
- account numbers, passwords or PIN numbers; and/or
- Social Security Number.

DID YOU KNOW?

Answering unsolicited calls and pressing numbers verifies that your number is a working number, which results in more calls.

If you think a call is real and you're concerned, search for the company's phone number on their website and call that instead of the number provided by the robocaller.

WHY DOESN'T THE DO NOT CALL REGISTRY STOP ROBOCALLS?

The Do Not Call Registry is designed to stop sales calls from real companies that follow the law. Scammers don't care if you're on the Registry.

The Federal Communications Commission and Federal Trade Commission (FTC) do not and cannot block calls.



ACTION STEPS TO PREVENT FRAUD

- Place a fraud alert on your credit report.
- If you provided account numbers:
 - * contact your financial institution and ask them to block unauthorized withdrawals.
 - * Follow up with a visit to the bank and provide written notice of the incident and your request.
 - * Keep a copy for your records.
- File a complaint with the Michigan Attorney General's Consumer Protection team (mi.gov/agcomplaints).
- [Report the call to the FTC](http://donotcall.gov) (donotcall.gov).
- Learn more about telemarketing fraud on the [Attorney General's website](http://mi.gov/agconsumeralerts) (mi.gov/agconsumeralerts).

PREVENTION CHECKLIST

- Add your phone number to the [National Do Not Call Registry](http://donotcall.gov) (donotcall.gov).
- Don't provide personal information over the phone.
- Don't answer calls from unrecognized numbers or callers.
- Hang up on robocalls.
- File a complaint on the [Michigan Department of Attorney General's website](http://mi.gov/agcomplaints) (mi.gov/agcomplaints).
- [Report robocalls to the FTC](http://donotcall.gov) (donotcall.gov).
- Use call-blocking software and talk to your service provider about your options.
- Download a call-blocking app.





News Release

SOCIAL SECURITY

Beware of Social Security Phone Scams

Social Security and its Office of the Inspector General (OIG) continue to receive reports about fraudulent phone calls from people falsely claiming to be Social Security employees. The scammers mislead victims into making cash or gift card payments for help with purported identity theft, or to avoid arrest for bogus Social Security number problems.

People should also be on the lookout for a new version of this scam. Fraudsters are now emailing fake documents in attempts to get people to comply with their demands. Victims have received emails with attached letters and reports that appear to be from Social Security or the OIG. The letters may use official letterhead and government jargon to convince victims they are legitimate; they may also contain misspellings and grammar mistakes.

The new PSA addressing the telephone impersonation scheme is available online at www.youtube.com/socialsecurity.

Social Security employees do occasionally contact people--generally those who have ongoing business with the agency--by telephone for business purposes. However, Social Security employees will never threaten a person, or promise a Social Security benefit approval, or increase, in exchange for information or money. In those cases, the call is fraudulent and people should just hang up.

Generally, the agency mainly calls people who have recently applied for a Social Security benefit, someone who is already receiving payments and requires an update to their record, or a person who has requested a phone call from the agency. If a person is not in one of these situations, they normally would not receive a call from the agency. Social Security will not:

- Tell you that your Social Security number has been suspended.
- Contact you to demand an immediate payment.

- Ask you for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Require a specific means of debt repayment, like a prepaid debit card, a retail gift card, or cash.
- Demand that you pay a Social Security debt without the ability to appeal the amount you owe.
- Promise a Social Security benefit approval, or increase, in exchange for information or money.

If there is a problem with a person's Social Security number or record, in most cases Social Security will mail a letter. If a person needs to submit payments to Social Security, the agency will send a letter with instructions and payment options. People should never provide information or payment over the phone or Internet unless they are certain of who is receiving it.

ADVOCATES for Senior Issues

Thank you to all of our sponsors:

Gold:

AARP

Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan

Beacon Hill at Eastgate

Covenant Village of the Great Lakes

Donald Behrenwald

DTE Energy Foundation

Life EMS Ambulance

Meijer

Morris Builders

Priority Health

Silver:

ComForcare Senior Services

Consumers Energy

Elders' Helpers LLC

Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services

Reliance Community Care Partners

Samaritas

UBS Financial Services Inc

West Michigan Credit Union

Bronze:

Always Best Care Senior Services

American House Senior Living

Amigo Mobility

Calvin Academy for Lifelong Learning

Care Resources

Grand Rapids Ophthalmology

Health Care Associates & Community Caregivers

Making Choices Michigan

Marilyn Titcher

Metron Integrated Health Systems/Health Bridge

OLLI - Aquinas

Parents Empowering Network

Pilgrim Manor

Rethinking Dementia: Accelerating Change

Robert Levine MD

Friend:

Alternatives in Motion

Beth A. Swagman PLLC

Beth Mans Greenridge Realty

Bethlehem Intergenerational Center

Culver Realty LLC

Gauthier Family Home Care

Goodrich Quality Theaters

GR Savvy Senior Learning Series

Holland Home

Joel Jason Certified Financial Planner

Kent County Prosecutor's Office

Lois Carey

Meals on Wheels Western Michigan

NAMI

NARFE

Phil and Judy France

Porter Hills Retirement Communities

Region 9 MEA -Retired

Senior Neighbors

StoryPoint

The Village of Heather Hills

Tom Appel

Villa Maria Retirement Apartments