

# The Aging Network

Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc.

Serving Adams, Brown, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton Counties in Ohio

www.aaa7.org **Helping You Age Better!**



## SUMMER 2011

### **New Study Confirms Success of Ohio's Area Agencies on Aging**

***Expanded Medicaid Home and Community Services Allowing Ohio to Serve More Older Ohioans for Less***

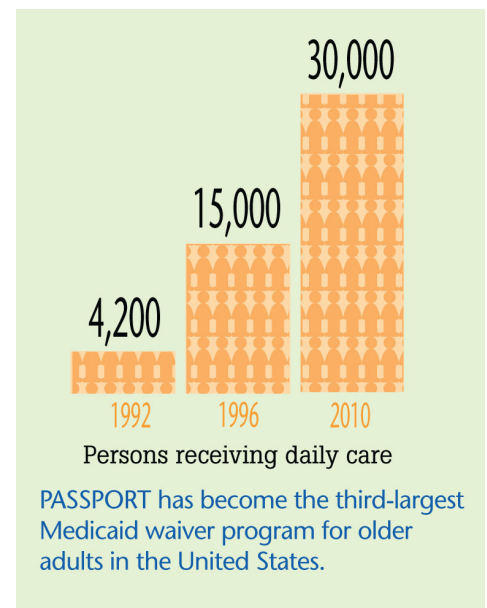
A Scripps Gerontology Center report recently released shows that the proportion of Ohioans receiving long-term care Medicaid services in their own homes and communities to those cared for in nursing homes has increased from less than 10 percent in 1993, to 42 percent in 2009. The report, "Coming of Age: Tracking the Progress and Challenges of Delivering Long-Term Services and Supports in Ohio," emphasizes that the shift to home and community services has lowered Ohio's long-term care Medicaid spending on older people (when adjusted for inflation) over the past 12 years while raising the average number of persons served each day by nearly 10,000.

The increase in non-institutional Medicaid services, the report observes, is due, in part, to the expansion of the state's PASSPORT home-care program (from 15,000 to 30,000 participants) in roughly the same time period, along with the state's recent provision of Medicaid-funded assisted living units and other home-care alternatives. According to the report, Ohio's average monthly Medicaid reimbursement for a PASSPORT client was \$1,067, compared to \$4,281 for a nursing home resident in FY 2009. The report specifies a 14.5 percent decrease in Medicaid-funded nursing home use by Ohioans age 60 and older between

1997 and 2009, despite a 15 percent increase in Ohio's overall 60 and older population, findings that are especially significant as Ohio's severely disabled older population is expected to double by the year 2040.

The report, authored by Scripps researchers Shahla Mehdizadeh, Robert Applebaum, Ian Nelson and Jane Straker – and funded by the Ohio Department of Aging and the Ohio Long-Term Care Research Project – notes that, despite considerable gains over the past decade, Ohio is still below the national average in the proportion of Medicaid funds allocated to home and community-based services.

The report recommends that Ohio policy makers consider: expanding preventive services for older persons; continue the successful measures of its newly implemented nursing home diversion and transition program; respond to the growing number of individuals under age 60 using nursing homes; and pay increasing attention to the high nursing home bed supply.



Graphs courtesy of the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging

## ***In This Issue***

Capitol Hill Visits.....	Page 2
Fair Care Ohio Update.....	Page 2
Older Americans Month Proclamations.....	Page 3
Appreciation Brunch.....	Page 4
29th Annual Art Show.....	Page 6
News Snippets.....	Page 8

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## AAA7 Visits US Legislative Offices on Capitol Hill

The United State's aging population is exploding at precisely the time federal policymakers are considering drastic changes to key programs that help older adults age independently. The potential impact of reforms to programs like Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security is troubling, which is why representatives from the Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc. (AAA7) recently traveled to Washington, DC, to urge policymakers to protect the vital programs that help older adults maintain their health and independence and age in place in their homes and communities for as long as possible.

Pam Matura, Executive Director of the AAA7, and Nina Keller, Assistant Director and Director of Planning at

the AAA7, participated in the 36th Annual Conference of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging held in July in Washington, DC, where leading aging experts gathered to address key issues affecting America's rapidly aging population.

In addition to conference meetings and presentations, Matura and Keller also visited with each congressional and senate office represented in the ten counties covered by the AAA7. This included meetings with the offices of United States Senators Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman, in addition to United States Representatives Steve Austria, Bob Gibbs, Bill Johnson, Jean Schmidt and Mike Turner.

### Fair Care Ohio Saves Senior Services

*by the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging*

Thousands of concerned citizens, mobilized by the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging (o4a) grassroots campaign, Fair Care Ohio (FCO), succeeded in stopping major cuts to state-funded senior services.

Launched in January, the campaign set two goals: to educate Ohioans and Ohio's legislators about home and community-based services and supports, and to ensure that the budget funded them. Through the advocacy of thousands of supporters empowered by FCO, legislators restored \$38.3 million in the next biennial budget (\$100 million when all funds are included) to pay for home and community-based services and supports.

Receiving long-term care at home, rather than in a nursing home, is the first choice for Medicaid-eligible older adults. Home care, at one-third the cost of nursing home care, is also the taxpayer's most cost-effective option. Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) statewide took on the job of making sure Ohioans, legislators, and the administration knew these facts. AAAs held community events; encouraged advocates to write letters, send emails, and make phone calls to legislators; and informed Ohioans of progress through the FCO website, a Facebook page, media stories, and the o4a website.

Advocates responded. They wrote more than 15,000 letters and postcards to legislators, sent 50,000 emails to Governor John Kasich and members of the 129th General Assembly, and 1,400 became active supporters of the Fair Care Ohio cause on Facebook. Thirty-five news articles appeared across the state covering the FCO issues.

Governor Kasich and state legislators reacted to concerned citizens' pleas, adding funding for essential programs like PASSPORT and Assisted Living to the budget. For the first time ever, they combined all long-term care expenditures for services and supports into the same line item, whether care is delivered in institutions or in communities and homes. This important change in Ohio's budget gives the dignity of choice to older Ohioans and those with disabilities. It is a more balanced approach to spending for long-term service and supports.



*Nina Keller, US Congressman  
Bob Gibbs and Pam Matura*



*Pam Matura and  
US Congresswoman Jean Schmidt*



*Pam Matura and Legislative Aide  
Jessica Talbert of US Congressman  
Steve Austria's Office*



*Nina Keller, Legislative Aide  
Andy Sigmon of US Congressman  
Mike Turner's Office and Pam Matura*



*Pam Matura, Legislative Aide  
Elise Connor of US Congressman  
Bill Johnson's Office and Nina Keller*



# Older Americans Month Proclamations in May



**ADAMS COUNTY** - Seated, left to right, Adams County Commissioners **Brian Baldridge**, **Roger Rhonemus** and **Justin Cooper**. Standing, left to right, are **Tina Lightcap** and **Jenni Dovyak** with the Area Agency on Aging, District 7, and **Melody Stapleton** of the Adams County Senior Center.



**BROWN COUNTY** - Left to right, **Jenni Dovyak**, AAA7; Brown County Commissioner **Rick Eagan**; **Sue Brooks**, Director of the Brown County Senior Citizens Center; **Doug Green**, Board Member with the AAA7; Brown County Commissioner **Ralph Jennings**; **Mary Ann Jones** and **BriAnna Grant** with the AAA7; and Brown County Commissioner **William R. Geschwind**.



**GALLIA COUNTY** - Pictured are, front row, left to right, **Shirley Doss** with the Gallia County Council on Aging; **Lisa Adams** with the AAA7; and **Danette McCabe** with the Gallia County Council on Aging. Back row, left to right, are Gallia County Commissioners **Joe Foster**, **Lois Snyder** and **Harold Montgomery**; **Basil Bailey** with the AAA7; and **Gary Fenderbosch**, Board Member with the AAA7.



**HIGHLAND COUNTY** - Left to right, Highland County Commissioners **Jeremy Shaffer**, **Shane Wilkin** and **Thomas Horst**. Standing, left to right, are **Jenni Dovyak** with the Area Agency on Aging District 7; **Suzanne Hopkins**, Director of the Highland County Senior Center; **Callie Reed** and **Neva Smalley** with the Area Agency on Aging District 7; and **Harold Walker**, Board Member with the Area Agency on Aging District 7.



**JACKSON COUNTY** - Seated, left to right, are Jackson County Commissioners **Jim Riepenhoff**, **Jerry Hall** and **Ed Armstrong**. Standing, left to right, are **Jenni Dovyak** and **Fallon Moore** with the Area Agency on Aging District 7; **Ron Courtney**, Board President of the Jackson County Senior Center; **Andy Graham**, Board Member with the Area Agency on Aging District 7; **Susan Downey**, Director of the Jackson County Senior Center; and **Sarah Tobert** of the Area Agency on Aging District 7.



**LAWRENCE COUNTY** - Pictured, left to right, Lawrence County Commissioners **Les Boggs** and **Bill Pratt**; **Jenni Dovyak** with the Area Agency on Aging District 7; **Beth Frazier** and **Carol Horner** with the Ironton-Lawrence Community Action Organization; **Carolyn Hopper** with the Area Agency on Aging District 7; and **Chuck Harper**, Board Member with the Area Agency on Aging District 7.



**PIKE COUNTY** - Seated, left to right, Pike County Commissioners **Teddy West**, **Harry Rider** and **Blaine Beekman**. Standing, left to right, are **Alice Ward**, Board Member with the AAA7; **Joy Polley** and **Kelli Meredith** with the AAA7; **Patricia Strickland**, Board Member with the AAA7; and **Diane Renner** of the Community Action Committee of Pike County.



**ROSS COUNTY** - First row, left to right, **Janet Elliott** with the Ross County Senior Center; **John Stultz**, Board Member with the Area Agency on Aging District 7; and Ross County Commissioner **James M. Caldwell**. Back row, left to right, are Ross County Commissioner **R. Douglas Corcoran** and **Kelli Meredith** of the Area Agency on Aging District 7.

(continued on Page 6)

## **Annual Appreciation Brunch Extends “Thanks”**

Giving thanks. That was common place at this year's Area Agency on Aging District 7's Appreciation Brunch, which was recently celebrated at the Southern Ohio Medical Center Friends Center in Portsmouth.

During the special event, several individuals and groups throughout the Agency's 10-county district were recognized for their service and dedication to not only the Agency as a whole, but more importantly, the communities and seniors served by the Agency. The Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc. serves the following counties: Adams, Brown, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton.

Special awards that were presented at the event to individuals or groups included:

### **William A. Jenkins Award (Outstanding Contributor to Our Southern Ohio Aging Network)**

This year's Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc. "William A. Jenkins Award" was presented to the AAA7 Provider Network. This group of nearly 150 partners, who contract with the AAA7 to provide home and community-based services, work diligently for seniors and those with disabilities.

Specifically for 2011, the AAA7 Providers were a huge help and asset with advocacy projects that

surrounded funding and support for services that give seniors and those with disabilities a fair choice concerning their long-term care options. Providers exhibited strong support of the AAA7's goal of ensuring that consumers have the services and programs they rely on today and in the future.

"Our Providers' involvement in not only advocacy, but sustained efforts to maintain quality care for our consumer is so important," said Pamela K. Matura, Executive Director with the Area Agency on Aging District 7. "Our Providers are a huge part of our care delivery process, and we are so very appreciative of them and the work they do to assure our consumers are receiving the services they need in order to stay safely and comfortably in their home."

The award is named in memory of William A. Jenkins, a native of Gallia County, who helped build the aging network in southern Ohio through the Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc.

Pictured below are the Providers who were in attendance at the Brunch.

### **Partnership Award**

This year's Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc. "Partnership Award" was presented to Dale Gillette, who is currently with the Pickaway County Sheriff's Office where he is the Triad Coordinator.

number of programs, groups and support, and served as the State of Ohio's Triad Coordinator under General Richard Cordray of the Ohio Attorney General's Office. Triad partnerships are designed to help seniors learn of the scams and crimes that target them, increase their communication with law enforcement, and create awareness about community resources. Deputy Gillette has served on the National Triad Advisory Board and was the Triad Coordinator in Ross County for ten years. He initiated the SHIP program for Ross County and Project Lifesaver



for Ross County, and now serves as a trainer for Project Lifesaver.

Most recently, Gillette was asked to serve on a national advisory committee for a US Department of Justice-funded project that will result in a national "Pocket Guide on Legal Issues Related to Elder Abuse." The project will also adapt the pocket guide to reflect state laws and resources.

Pictured above is, right, Jan Harper-Keeton, Secretary of the Ross County SALT Council, who accepts the Area Agency on Aging District 7 Partnership Award on behalf of Dale Gillette, who was unable to attend. Pam Matura,



Gillette has had many years of partnership work with the Area Agency on Aging District 7 through a

*(continued on Page 5)*



AAA7 Executive Director is also pictured.

In addition to recognizing Gillette, the AAA7 also took the time to recognize one of the projects Gillette has been so instrumental in – Project Lifesaver. Project Lifesaver first came to Ohio in 2002 in Ross County, and is now in



several counties across the state, including six counties in the AAA7 district – Gallia, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross and Scioto. The primary mission of Project Lifesaver is to provide timely response to save lives



and reduce potential injury for adults and children who wander due to Alzheimer's, autism and other related conditions and disorders. Participants in the program wear a personalized bracelet that emits a tracking signal.



When a family member or caregiver notifies the local agency that the person is missing, a search and rescue team responds to the wanderer's area and starts searching with the mobile

tracking system. During the event, the AAA7 recognized local law enforcement partners who support Project Lifesaver. These include the Gallia County Sheriff's Office, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Lawrence County Sheriff's Office, Waverly Police Department in Pike County, Ross County Sheriff's Office, and Project Lifesaver of Scioto County.

Pictured in the left column is AAA7 Executive Director Pam Matura with Project Lifesaver representatives from Gallia County (Pictured Top - Jimmy Spears of the Gallia County Sheriff's Office); Ross County (Pictured Center - Dave Weber of the Ross County Sheriff's Office); and Scioto County (Pictured Bottom - Scioto County Project Lifesaver representatives).

**Community Service Award**

This year's Area Agency on Aging District 7 "Community Service Award" was presented to the American Red Cross Smoke Alarm Program.

Through a grant from the American Red Cross, the Area Agency on Aging District 7 was designated as a distribution center for smoke alarms and carbon dioxide detectors. Individuals who benefit from the program include those who are disabled and/or over the age of 65, or PASSPORT consumers who reside in Adams, Brown or Highland Counties in Ohio. Because of this geographical area, the Area Agency on Aging District 7 West Union Office seemed the ideal center for distribution.

Qualified consumers in the program can receive one carbon dioxide detector per household and one smoke alarm per household for each floor in the home. Area Agency on Aging staff assists the consumer with completing the application, equipment testing, and education about the devices and safety information. Kim Paquette, of the

AAA7 West Union Office, was also recognized for her assistance with the project.



In 2010, the American Red Cross and Area Agency on Aging provided 24 smoke alarms and 22 carbon dioxide detectors to those in need in Adams, Brown and Highland Counties.

Pictured above is AAA7 Executive Director Pam Matura with Mary Arnzen of the American Red Cross.

Special recognition was also given at the event to the following groups and individuals:

**Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Volunteers**

John Brewer, Rhonda Bivens, Mary Book, Rich Burton, Doug McCoard, Debbie Mersiel, Margaret Miller, Paul Plymale, Lavon Shields, Don Swisher, Jerry Towler and Connie Watkins.

Picture is on Page 7

**Art Show and Essay/Poetry Contest Volunteers**

Helen Arnott, Joan Arrowood, Sheila Arrowood, Rita Baker, Jane Bragg, Phyllis Copley, Wanda Czechlewski, Diana Evans, Doris Evans, Eleanor Fadeley, Hazel Fields, Jeanne Fisher, Gladys Flowers, Martha Foster, Phyllis Fulk, Jean Gray, Joyce Haag, Carolee Lewis, Mary Maxson, Rushie McAllister, Betty Means, Paul Means, Annabelle Miller, Shirley Miller, Rick Mitchell, Bob Powell, Vicki Powell, Nancy Shaw, Lavon Shields, Irena

*(continued on Page 7)*

# 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior Citizens Art Show Recognizes Senior Talent

The artwork of local seniors was recently showcased at the Area Agency on Aging District 7's (AAA7) 29th Annual Senior Citizens Art Show and Essay/Poetry Contest that was held at the Esther Allen Greer Museum and Gallery, located on the campus of the University of Rio Grande in Rio Grande, Ohio.

Ohio residents age 55 or older were eligible to participate in the Art Show and Essay/Poetry Contest that was on display from May 16 - 27, 2011. Examples of art categories that were entered in the Contest included acrylic, charcoal, counted cross stitch, mixed media, oil, pastels, pencil, and photography. Judging themes included abstract, animals and birds, cartoons, floral, landscape, portraits (humans), seascape, and still life, in addition to essays and poeties.

This year, a total of 179 art pieces were entered in the Contest with 38 essays/poems. Special Awards were presented to: "Victor Potts Best of Show Award" – Rosemary Imes (Lawrence County); "Mary Peck Friend of Animals Award" – Rick Mitchell (Gallia County); and "People's Choice Award" – Sharon Brown (Jackson County). The "Mary Peck Friend of Animals Award" was debuted at this year's event and awarded to the best animal-featured art piece, as selected by the judges. The award is given in memory of Mary Peck, a participant and friend of the AAA7's Art Show for many years. A resident of Chillicothe, Peck was a very active member of the Ross County Senior Center and participated in the AAA7 Art Show for many years. As she was very drawn to animals, she enjoyed featuring them in her artwork. She is remembered as a loving friend, sweet lady, and friend to animals. Rick Mitchell of Gallia County was named the first recipient of this special award.

A special Tea to honor the artists was held on May 27 where winners were announced and recognized. Artists representing the District's 10 counties were in attendance.

Pictures and information on winners from each county is located on the Area Agency on Aging District 7's website, [www.aaa7.org](http://www.aaa7.org).



**Pictured Top Left - Rosemary Imes** of Lawrence County was named the 2011 recipient of the "Victor Potts Best of Show Award". She is pictured with her winning art piece, "Railroad Engineer."

**Pictured Top Right: Rick Mitchell** of Gallia County was named the first recipient of the "Mary Peck Friend of Animals Award." He is pictured with his winning art piece, "Girls Day Out."



**Pictured Left: Sharon Brown** of Jackson County was named the recipient of the "People's Choice Award." She is pictured with her winning art piece, "Country Scene."

## Older Americans Month....continued from Page 3



**SCIOTO COUNTY** - Pictured at the signing of the Proclamation for Older Americans Month at the Scioto County Commissioners Office were, left to right, **Renee Ellis**, Director of United Scioto Senior Activities (USSA); Scioto County Commissioner **Mike Crabtree**; **Robin Fraley** with the Area Agency on Aging District 7; and Scioto County Commissioner **Thomas Reiser**.



**VINTON COUNTY** - Pictured at the signing of the Proclamation for Older Americans Month at the Vinton County Commissioners Office were, front row, left to right, **Lisa Adams** with the Area Agency on Aging District 7; **Rhoda Price**, Director of the Vinton County Senior Center; **Deanna Tribe** and **Jane Ann Burns**, Board Members with the Area Agency on Aging District 7; and **Lisa Burleson** with the Area Agency on Aging District 7. Back row, left to right, **Angela Horn** with the Vinton County Commissioners Office; and Vinton County Commissioners **Michael M. Bledsoe**, **Tim Eberts** and **Jerry Zinn**.



## Appreciation Brunch...continued from Page 5

Skaggs, Anna Summers and David Summers.

Also recognized were winners at this year's Contest.

### Outstanding Seniors (As Selected by Each County Senior Center)

Adams County – *In Memory of Johanna M. Phipps*; Gallia County – *Lily Holley*; Highland County – *Andrea Schneider*; Jackson County – *Opal Crabtree*; Lawrence County – *Juanita Meadows (Sybene Senior Center) and Carl Dean (Ironton Senior Center)*; Pike County – *Juanita Bryant*; and Ross County – *Roy Burns*.

### State Awardees (District Honorees from the Ohio Department of Aging)

Elder Caregiver of the Year Award – *Rhonda Madison and June Meade (Scioto County)*;

Elder Caregiver of the Year Award - *Mary Weagle (Scioto County)*;  
Senior Hall of Fame Inductee – *Kathryn Loxley (Jackson County)*;  
Joined Hearts in Giving – *Paul and Sharon Reiser (Scioto County)*; and  
Joined Hearts in Giving – *James and Wilma Rockwell (Scioto County)*.

The Area Agency on Aging District 7 was pleased to host another successful Appreciation Brunch to extend its thankfulness and appreciation to all the individuals and groups who make the district so special.

Your local Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc. provides services on a non-discriminatory basis in the following Ohio counties: Adams, Brown, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton. These services are available

to help older adults and those with disabilities live safely and independently in their own homes through services paid for by Medicare, Medicaid, other federal and state resources, as well as private pay.

Those interested in learning more can call toll-free at 1-800-582-7277 (TTY 1-888-270-1550). Here, individuals can speak directly with a nurse or social worker who will assist them with information surrounding the programs and services that are available to best serve their needs. Information is also available on [www.aaa7.org](http://www.aaa7.org), or interested individuals can also e-mail [info@aaa7.org](mailto:info@aaa7.org).



Pictured Above/Left - Ombudsman Volunteers and Staff. Pictured Above/Center - Art Show Volunteers and Participants. Pictured Above Right- Elder Caregiver Awardees **Rhonda Madison** and **June Meade** of West Portsmouth with AAA7 Executive Director **Pam Matura**. Pictured Below/Left - A couple of the individuals representing their county's Outstanding Senior. Left to right, **Juanita Meadows**, Outstanding Senior for Lawrence County (Sybene Senior Center); AAA7 Executive Director **Pam Matura**; **Corbett Phipps**, who accepted the award on behalf of and in memory of his mother, **Johanna Phipps**, Outstanding Senior for Adams County; and **Ashley Phillips**, AAA7 Communications Intern. Pictured Below/Center - Couples who were honored in 2011 by the Ohio Department of Aging at the "Joined Hearts in Giving" celebration that recognizes couples who are at least 60 years of age, married more than 40 years, and share a commitment of volunteering. **Pam Matura**, center, AAA7 Executive Director, recognized **James and Wilma Rockwell**, pictured left, of Portsmouth, and **Paul and Sharon Reiser**, pictured right, also of Portsmouth. Pictured Below/Right - Elder Caregiver Awardee **Mary Weagle**, of Wheelersburg, with AAA7 Executive Director **Pam Matura**.





**Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc.**

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*Services are rendered on a non-discriminatory basis. Those interested in learning more about the services provided through the*

*Area Agency on Aging District 7 can also call toll-free at 1-800-582-7277. Here, individuals can talk directly with a nurse or social worker who will assist them with information surrounding the programs and services that are available to best serve their needs.*

## **AAA7 Quick Notes - News Snippets for Your Information!**

- ✓ **SENIOR EXPO** - Just a friendly reminder that the 2011 Senior Expo has been CANCELED. Please pass this along to others who might be interested or need to know.
  
- ✓ **NOMINATE AN OUTSTANDING OHIOAN** - The Ohio Department of Aging recently announced nomination deadlines for three state-level honors:  
Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame: August 1 - 31, 2011  
Elder Caregiver Award: September 1 - 30, 2011  
Joined Hearts in Giving: November 1 - 30, 2011  
For more information, log on to [www.aging.ohio.gov/news/nominations](http://www.aging.ohio.gov/news/nominations), or call Melanie Ayotte at the Ohio Department of Aging at (614) 728-0253 or e-mail [mayotte@age.state.oh.us](mailto:mayotte@age.state.oh.us).
  
- ✓ **LOOKING FOR A SPEAKER?** - We love to speak at community meetings and functions! Call us at 1-800-582-7277 to schedule the Area Agency on Aging District 7 for your next meeting.
  
- ✓ **FIND US ON FACEBOOK** - The AAA7 is now on Facebook!  
Find us at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/AreaAgencyOnAgingDistrict7>



Find us on  
**Facebook**