



# Indeed



A One Stop Shop for Minnesota Seniors

*"Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world.*

*Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. " - Margaret Mead*

February 2014

Volume 2, Issue 1

## MNRAAA SLL Volunteers at Work

A glance back at 2013's fourth quarter highlights

MNRAAA's special focus serving communities throughout our region. Medicare open enrollment in the fall is a major focus of the Senior LinkAge Line® and its volunteers. During 2013's open enrollment period, volunteers worked at 45 enrollment sites throughout our twenty-seven counties service area. Putting in a total of over **one thousand** hours of volunteer work!

## Volunteer Quarterly Trainings

Save the date for our next Volunteer Quarterly Training in your area! Mankato area volunteers will meet on Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Crossview Covenant Church, North Mankato. Willmar area volunteers will meet on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Willmar MNRAAA office. Slayton area volunteers will meet on Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Slayton MNRAAA office. Notice Willmar and Slayton trainings will start and end an hour later than previous trainings. Hopefully this will accommodate the winter weather.

Remember these quarterly trainings provide you with helpful information for your volunteer role and the CEUs that SHIP counselors need to maintain their certificates. We encourage you to make every effort to attend and participate. Thank you!

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*"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."*

~Sherry Anderson



Volunteer Henry Kress filming a public service announcement about the rewards of volunteering with the Senior LinkAge Line®!

## MnRAAA Volunteers - Slayton



**L-R, Back**— Sarah Reiman, volunteer coordinator; Marilyn Nickel; Anne Lichtsinn; Betty Rosenberg; and Phyllis Mansch.

**Front**— Lila Anderson; Gerri Jensen; Betty Wilcoxon; and Donna Kurth.

**Not Pictured** - Shirley Anderson-Porisch; Pam Beckmann; Barb Berkenpas; Alice Bjerrum; Gail Byers; Laurin Carroll; Bob Demuth; Donna Ford; Connie Heffelfinger; Rich Hess; Robert Jarchow; Sandy Nelson; Marilyn Pagel; Betty Palmer; Ronda Radke; Dennis Roelfsema; and Donna Rohrer.

## Senate Aging Committee Launches New Anti-Fraud Hotline

The U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging has set up a new toll-free hotline to make it easier for senior citizens to report suspected fraud and receive assistance. The hotline is staffed by a team of committee investigators weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The investigators, who have experience with investment scams, identity theft, bogus sweepstakes and lottery schemes, Medicare and Social Security fraud, and a variety of other senior exploitation issues, will directly examine complaints and, if appropriate, refer them to the proper authorities.

Anyone with information about suspected fraud can call the toll-free fraud hotline at 1-855-303-9470, or contact the committee through its website, located at <http://www.aging.senate.gov/fraud-hotline>. If you have questions about this information or need help in reporting suspected health care or consumer fraud contact the Senior LinkAge Line® at 1-800-333-2433.

## Your Calendar

**January 1 - February 14:** Annual Medicare Advantage Disenrollment Period

**February 5:** 2am - 3pm Redwood Falls Healthy Aging Education Series, <http://redwoodareahospital.org/education/healthy-aging-education-series/>

**February 6:** 10am and 1pm Fairmont - Senior Surf Day Classes

**February 10:** 9am - 1pm Mankato - Volunteer Quarterly Training

**February 11-13:** 9am - 4pm Mankato - Core Body of Knowledge Training

**February 12:** 1:30pm - 3pm Morton - Lower Sioux Community Center- Welcome to Medicare Class

**February 19:** 9am - 9pm Worthington - Senior LinkAge Line® Presentation

**February 20:** 3:30pm - 5:30pm Springfield - Senior Surf Day Class

**February 26:** 10am - 2pm Willmar - Volunteer Quarterly Training

**February 27:** 10am - 2pm Slayton - Volunteer Quarterly Training

**March 11:** 4pm - 6:30pm Springfield - Welcome to Medicare Class

**March 18:** Worthington - Welcome to Medicare Class

**March 25:** 10am - 4pm Mankato - Booth at Project Community Connect

**March 25-27:** 9am - 4pm Slayton - Core Body of Knowledge Training

**April 1:** 10am and 1pm Fairmont - Senior Surf Day Classes

For more information on these events, please contact Sarah at 1-800-333-2433 ext. 82026.

## Changing Your Medicare Advantage (Private Health) Plan

You are limited in when you can change your Medicare **health** plan during the year.

1. You can switch Medicare private plans during **Fall Open Enrollment** which runs from October 15 through December 7 in 2014. Your new coverage starts January 1. During this period you can change your choice of health coverage, and add, drop or change Medicare drug coverage.
2. You can switch from your Medicare private health plan (except Medicare Medical Savings Accounts, MSA) to Original Medicare during the **Medicare Advantage Disenrollment Period (MADP)**. You can only make this coverage change if you have a Medicare private health plan (also known as a Medicare Advantage plan). The Medicare Advantage Disenrollment Period occurs every year from January 1 to February 14.

If you have a Medicare private health plan you will be able to switch to Original Medicare with or without a stand-alone prescription drug plan. Changes made during this period will become effective the first of the following month. For example, if you switched from a Medicare Advantage plan to Original Medicare and a stand-alone prescription drug plan in February, your new coverage would begin March 1.

**Note:** If you are enrolled in a PFFS plan with a stand-alone drug plan, you must keep your stand-alone prescription drug plan if you switch to Original Medicare during the disenrollment period.

**Note:** If you disenroll from your Medicare private health plan (Medicare Advantage plan) federal law does not usually give you the right to buy a Medigap plan. The laws in your state might give you more rights.

(Excerpt from MedicareInteractive.org article: MI Counselor, Section III: Overview of Medicare Health Coverage Options, for full article see:  
<http://www.medicareinteractive.org/page2.php?topic=counselor&page=Index#III>)

Medicare Advantage Disenrollment Period	
If you have...	You can switch to...
A Medicare private health plan with or without drug coverage (Medicare Advantage)	Original Medicare <b>and</b> a prescription drug plan*  or  Original Medicare <b>without</b> a prescription drug plan
A Medicare Private Fee-For-Service (PFFS) plan that does not have prescription drug coverage <b>and</b> a stand-alone prescription drug plan (MA and PDP)	Original Medicare, <b>but you must keep your current</b> prescription drug plan
Original Medicare or Original Medicare and a prescription drug plan	You cannot switch your plan during this time

\* If you have a Medicare Advantage plan and a separate stand-alone drug plan (PDP), then you can switch to Original Medicare but cannot change stand-alone drug plans.

*"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."*

~Winston Churchill



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## Word Cloud Contest

Calculate the number of non-duplicated words the word cloud to the left contains. The words relate to volunteers and Medicare. E-mail your entry to Ashley at [ashley@rndc.org](mailto:ashley@rndc.org). The first person with the correct answer will win a \$20 gift card to a local gas station!



## Words of Appreciation

Gratitude has many expressions. Don't miss the words of appreciation penned below by the clients you serve:

- "This is my first experience with looking at Medicare and supplements. Totally overwhelming. Thank goodness for Senior LinkAge and their knowledge."
- "Your people were friendly, knowledgeable, and very helpful. Well done."
- "It was great! This will save a lot of time and errors."
- "Have no idea what I would have done without them. Thanks."
- "I was so pleased with the service you provided. I couldn't have done it alone."
- "The nicest people on the world to work with."

## Stay Connected:



[www.mnraaa.org](http://www.mnraaa.org)