

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all Members! I hope you are well and surviving this pandemic ok! As you know, our various activities have been greatly interrupted. Hopefully, we can cope with things and continue planning for our future work together. This is a special edition and update.

Our Chapter Office is still available to assist with questions/concerns of yours or friends. Just call 315-454-0104 and leave a message. We have new volunteers in the office during the week. Pat Kane (office manager) and Bill Walters are helping greatly since Mary Klekosky retired (due to family health reasons). We wish Mary and husband better health and thank her greatly for all she did for our Chapter. (We did submit Mary's name for an award by our national and state AARP.)

Please note that there will be NO Chapter meetings this fall. The pandemic still is spreading and thus our national office strongly suggested NO group meetings.

Our Board of Directors\* is meeting occasionally – via the internet – to continue plans for the future. We currently have two significant

needs: people to lead and financial. People needed: a Treasurer – SOON; a Chair (or co-chairs) for the Community Service Committee; and an Editor of our newsletter. Ideas/Suggestions? Contact Bob O'Connor (315-637-3920) or e-mail at: [rob-toc@msn.com](mailto:rob-toc@msn.com).

Our second need – financial. Our chapter relies on our member **DUES (\$8 for 12 months, per person)**. Are yours up to date? Check your mailing label OR see special note (per e-mail copy). More future news will be coming by e-mail, thus, update yours (see below\*). We cannot raise our dues, unless national does. Dues are our main source of income to operate our chapter and office. [We can accept any special contributions if you are able.] Checks for either should be made out to our full chapter name and mailed to our Mattydale address (see elsewhere). To provide your e-mail to us, send it to Pat Kane at:

[patwk49@gmail.com](mailto:patwk49@gmail.com)

We will be using e-mail more in the future.

Thank you.

*Bob O'Connor*

**AARP**® Onondaga Chapter 243  
6726 Townline Road,  
Mattydale New York 13211-1916  
Local Office: 315-454-0104  
Local Website: [Aarponondagachapter243.org](http://Aarponondagachapter243.org)  
National Office: (888) 687-2277

---

Non-Profit Organization

### Board of Directors\*:

Bob O'Connor, President  
Douglas Matousek, Vice Pres.  
Deb O'Shea, Sec'y for Board  
Cora Reals, Sec'y for Chap. Mtg

### Others:

Marcia Dattler  
Joan Miller  
Dorinne Davis  
Karen Russell  
Pat Korbas  
Michaele Wendell

---

## US CENSUS

Have you sent in your completed **CENSUS** form yet? It's critical for our county and state, especially for federal funding and voting over the next 10 years. If unable to find your form, Call – SOON- to the local Census office at 315-385-8200.

## OUR CHAPTER COLLECTIONS

We would like members to consider the supplies which we usually bring to meetings. Included are: foods (canned or other non-



perishable); metal can tabs for the Shriner's Hospital and used eyeglasses (to the Lions).

Joan, a Board member, suggested we ask chapter members (and friends) to gather food contributions in their neighborhood (ie: North Syracuse; Camillus; et al). Then have a member from there to transport the foods to the InterReligious Food Consortium on James St, Syracuse (**call ahead (315-474-8855)**). Keep tract of items collected & hours of time involved for chapter records. They distribute to many local food pantries.

During this pandemic, we ask you to continue collecting used eyeglasses and can tabs. These need to be delivered to the Chapter office. Call & leave a Message at our local office for more information per drop offs.

### PEN PALS

Would you like to make a new friend to talk (by phone) to during this pandemic? There is a special program,



*PenPal*

operated by InterFaith Works, called the One to One Program. For information, email Toma Tracy or call her at 315-449-3552, ext. 203. She can connect you with an older person, usually living alone. You can brighten one's day!

### LAP ROBES



People who are homebound often have cold legs in the winter. Some of our members are busy making these nice, warm coverings (30" by 36"). More are needed for Christmas. We have lots of yarn at our office (but no needles). Other people – who may not be knitters – can pick up supplies and the finished robes. Can you help with either of these needs? Please call Karen Russell (315-672-3470) for more information. Thank you.

### FRAUDS and SCAMS



Bad actors are still working overtime to get your money and identity. BE CAREFUL!! The national web site (aarp.org) has good information on these many parts, including tips to avoid/foil such activities. Also, call and report problems to the AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline at: 1-877-908-3360 or: aarp.org/fraudhelpline.

### ELECTION 2020



The Election – Nov. 3, 2020 – coming soon. Are YOU & Friends REGISTERED? If not, contact the Onondaga County Board of Elections by:

- Phone: 315- 435-8683
- Mail OR In-Person at: 1000 Erie Blvd West, Syracuse, NY 13204

You must request, complete and file an Application. The deadline for this is Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>. Absentee ballots for this election will also need to request an application. Deadline to be announced.

### LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

David McNally, our State Legislative Manager, posted a summary of a meeting (8/21/20) with Senator Chuck Schumer, (Beth Finkle) the AARP NY State Director, and over 15,000 AARP NY members on a telephone town hall.

There's a lot going on in Washington and across the country. Key Concerns: keeping Social Security strong for current and future generations; ensuring the United States Postal Service can continue to provide the vital services that millions of people – especially older Americans and those with chronic conditions – depend upon; the COVID pandemic and more. David especially noted the pandemic issues below:

AARP has put forward a five-point plan calling on Congress to require:

1. Regular, ongoing testing and adequate personal protective equipment (PPE)
2. Transparency focused on daily, public reporting of cases and deaths in facilities; communication with families when loved ones are discharged or transferred; and

accountability for how billions of dollars in federal funding is spent.

3. Access to facilitated virtual visitation.
4. Better care for residents through adequate staffing, oversight, and access to in-person formal advocates (called long-term care ombudsmen).
5. No blanket immunity for long-term care facilities related to COVID-19.

Do you have any items or concerns you would like to see included in the next newsletter? Send to Bob O'Connor at: robtoc@msn.com or call:315-637-3920. We hope to send it out in late October. Be safe and well!

