



## AAA9 Advocate February 2020



WASHINGTON, DC

MARCH 17-18  
2020

Springtime in our nation's capitol in mid March can be cold, but the aging network will be warming up DC. Representatives from across our country will come together and learn from national experts, as we look into the future of aging services across the country.

AAA9 CEO Jim Endly and Communications Officer, Carol Baker, will be meeting with legislators and their staff to have frank discussions on the issues concerning older adults in our region. This is an exciting time to meet with our counterparts and learn what they have been doing in their part of the country.



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The entire Census process can be confusing to many people, especially since it is not something we engage in each year. Here are some little known facts:

- *Did you know that you are required by law to respond to the Census?*
- *So what happens if you don't respond to the mailings sent to your home? After five mailings are sent without a response, a Census worker will come to your home for up to 6 days with the possibility of making more than one contact attempt per day, until information can be obtained from someone in your household. In addition, anyone who still refuses to answer can be fined up to \$100.00.*

So, why do some individuals not want to participate? There are various reasons, from distrust of government to not having a clear understanding of the importance of the Census. Without an accurate count, funding to help those most vulnerable may be in jeopardy. Individuals have the option to respond in one of three ways; online, by mail or by phone, beginning in mid March 2020.



By now, most of us are aware of the Coronavirus, as it is the headline daily, not only in the United States, but across the world. According to the newest information from the Centers for Disease Control, it is not a matter of if the Coronavirus will spread throughout the United States, but it is a matter of when, and how many Americans will become severely health.

The CDC is urging all Americans to begin their preparations. If you are not feeling well, stay home. Keep your hands away from your eyes and mouth. Seek medical help if you develop difficulty breathing or have a high fever. Above all, wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds. Try singing the song, "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" through twice. Pay attention to the back of your hands and the wrist area.

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## Across the Country

### OAA Reauthorization

We are almost at the finish line, with the US Senate close to approval of the Supporting Older Americans Act of 2020, H.R. 4334, which would authorize Older Americans Act programs for five years through 2024.



### Senator Introduces Bill

Sen. Bob Casey, (d-Pa), introduced S. 3277 - The Home and Community-Based Infrastructure Improvement Act. The Act is designed to provide one time federal funding to states allowing each state to create new programs focused on improving the lives of older adults.



### Across the state

Ohio is a welcoming state, unless you are here to perpetuate scams on older and disabled adults. Every day it seems like a new scam or fraud is in place. One of the latest is a telephone call letting the individual know that their social security number has been compromised. The individual is encouraged to call a specific number. Don't do it! Hang up and report the call to: <https://oig.ssa.gov/>



National "Slam the Scam" Day on March 5, 2020, has been designated by the Inspector General of Social Security, Gail S. Ennis, to warn americans about phone scams. Callers

impersonating government officials are trying to gain your trust and take your money. What to watch for:

Social Security scammers may:

- threaten arrest or legal action if you don't pay for a fine
- promise to increase your monthly benefits if you pay a fee
- Take care of the "identify theft" issue for a fee
- ask for payment with gift cards, ask for cash to be mailed to them or ask that you wire money from your bank account
- Try to trick you by using spoofed caller ID numbers making it appear that the Social Security Administration is really calling you.

**Do Not Believe Them!!** If you owe Social Security any money, they will send a letter . They will never suspend a social security number.

## Happy Retirement!

### Belmont Senior Services Director Retiring

Gary Armitage, Executive Director of Senior Services of Belmont County, announced his retirement to the Belmont County Commissioners recently. Gary will be retiring in March 2020 to enjoy work on his farm and spend time with family. Gary has done an outstanding job working on behalf of older adults in Belmont County and we will miss working with him! Congratulations Gary, we wish you all the best!



## March is National Social Workers Month



Happy National Professional Social Workers Month to all of our social workers at AAA9 and to all social workers in our region.

Be proud of your profession and tell others about your passion!

## On the Horizon.....



March is also:

**National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month**

**National Craft Month**

**National Caffeine Awareness Month** for those who need that cup of joe to get started.

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