



## NEWSLETTER OF THE OKLAHOMA ALLIANCE ON AGING

Published to Provide Information on Issues Affecting Older Oklahomans

Ken Jones, President

April-June 2021

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### President's Message

America just celebrated our first Juneteenth since making it a federal holiday. This is a great acknowledgement of the importance of freedom and equality for all Americans. However, incomes for older African Americans remains anything but equal.

Older Americans of color make up a little over eight percent of the population of Americans 65 and older. However, older African Americans make up almost 20 percent of Older Americans living below the poverty line. Almost 28 percent of African American women fall below the poverty level.

Over 78 percent of Older African Americans depend on Social Security to make up at least 50 percent of their retirement income.

Fewer than 20 percent of African American women have pension income for retirement, far below the national average.

This wealth gap has real consequences on long term care where African Americans make up a disproportionate percentage of nursing home residents.

We have come a long way to improve the lives of older Oklahomans. We still have a long way to go. Let's not leave behind those living in the minority. Let's help all older Oklahomans thrive.

(Sources: AARP and Statista)

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## Legislative Session Review by Esther Houser



YAY! The Session is OVER! We can be very happy that the Governor signed House Bill 1794, which is the updated statutory requirements for all Alzheimer's Dementia and Other Dementias Special Care Disclosure Statements. Some of the important parts of the bill are it makes it clear which providers of Long-Term Care need to file such a disclosure, and it directs the State Health Department to not only post them on its website, but to review them and use them in the inspection process when they are reviewing the quality of life and quality of care/services of people living in/ receiving services in these facilities.

Another "win" was the passage of the "guardrail" bill - SB131. Although the Governor did not sign this bill, it DID become law, due to the fact that the Legislature stayed in session in case the Governor vetoed it. He refused to sign it, but did not veto it. So it went into effect anyway. The bill provided many directives for Medicaid Managed Care in case the lawsuit against the administration's plan to use private managed care companies for the State's expansion of Medicaid failed. **NEWS FLASH!!** You've probably heard this by now, but the State Supreme Court ruled that the Governor's and Health Care Authority's plan to award contracts to private, for-profit, Managed Care companies to run the Medicaid program was **UNCONSTITUTIONAL!!** So, we don't really need the Guardrail bill after all, it seems!

On the positive side of the scale, quite a few bills this year had to do with improving Broadband Internet access and services statewide. The pandemic has underscored the critical need for and woeful lack of high-speed internet access in Oklahoma. This is important to Older Oklahomans as well as to schools, as the internet can connect us "virtually" with our doctors and other medical care providers, when in-person contact or transportation problems present problems.

On the negative side of things, the Senate confirmed the Governor's ill-advised nominees for the Board of Examiners for Long-Term Care Administrators. Either they didn't care who was providing oversight for Nursing Home Administrators' licensing OR they believed a Governor should always get what s/he wants. If you are interested, try to get involved by watching closely what the Board of Examiners for LTC Administrators does at its meetings and see if they try to roll back any of the requirements for Nursing Home, Assisted Living, or other LTC Administrators' licenses.

Finally, in the last big loss of the session, House Bill 2644, which would have allowed public bodies (including the Silver-Haired Legislature Alumni Association and the Oklahoma State Council on Aging ---now called the Ok State Council on Aging and Adult Protective Services) to continue meeting virtually under the Open Meeting Act (until March 2024), failed to advance out of Conference Committee! That really messes with groups primarily composed of Older Oklahomans, many of whom have multiple reasons to prefer remote attendance at meetings.

But the session is over (for which I am thankful), and that's just how it is.

## The Senior Safety and Lifestyle Fair is back for 2021 by Carol Carter

The Senior Safety and Lifestyle Fair is back for 2021 and scheduled for Tuesday, July 13 at the Exchange Center at Expo Square in Tulsa. LIFE Senior Services is hosting the event that is designed specifically for adults 55+. This year promises to be another great event with lots of opportunities, information and fun for attendees.

“This event will put a spotlight on the businesses, organizations, programs and services that exist to help seniors stay active, involved and healthy. Our goal is to help seniors live their best life!” says Eileen Bradshaw, CEO of LIFE Senior Services.

As the largest senior event in Oklahoma, more than 150 exhibitors will be offering information about health and safety, active aging, senior housing and retirement lifestyles and interest.

The Senior Stage will feature educational presentations and entertainment throughout the day. News On 6 anchor Lori Fullbright will emcee as well as share her widely-acclaimed “Cons, Frauds and Scams” presentation. New this year is a fashion show presented by the Assistance League Tulsa, featuring clothing from Bargains, their upscale resale shop. Senior Stage entertainment will include Nashville recording artist James Robert Webb and drummers, line-dancers and the East Side Band from LIFE’s Senior Center at East Side.

From 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. AARP Oklahoma is sponsoring a free drive-through shredding event on the east side of the Exchange Center. Bring your old tax, medical and banking records or even prescription tags for safe, on-site destruction.



Attendees are also encouraged to take advantage of free blood pressure, vision and hearing screenings, and to bring in their expired or unneeded prescriptions and medications for safe disposal at the Rx TakeBack booth.

Visit with Paw Pals therapy dogs and come meet the rescue pets from Alliance for Animals, ARF and Lab Rescue OK. You just might find your new best friend!

Additionally, there will be a new Seek, Find, Win! game where attendees can vie for one of ten \$100 Reasor’s Foods gift cards, compliments of Memorial Park Cemetery.

All attendees will receive an event bag and a free copy the *2021-2022 Vintage Guide to Housing & Services*, northeast Oklahoma’s most comprehensive catalog of senior resources and home and community-based services.

Presenting sponsors of the Senior Safety and Lifestyle Fair are AARP Oklahoma, Community Care, Oklahoma Insurance Department and News On 6.

We hope you will join us on Tuesday, July 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Exchange Center at Expo Square, 4145 East 21<sup>st</sup> St. in Tulsa. The event is free and will offer convenient parking lot shuttles. For more information, call LIFE Senior Services at (918) 664-9000, ext. 1219 or visit [www.LIFEseniorservices.org/seniorsafetyfair](http://www.LIFEseniorservices.org/seniorsafetyfair).



★  
A focus on  
health and  
safety, active  
aging and  
independent  
living.



★  
Information,  
products  
and services  
for seniors  
and family  
caregivers.

★ 2021 ★

## SENIOR SAFETY AND LIFESTYLE FAIR

*Presented by LIFE Senior Services*

**Tuesday, July 13 • 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**Exchange Center at Expo Square  
4145 E. 21<sup>st</sup> St., Tulsa, OK 74114**

**FREE ADMISSION**

### ★ Event Highlights Include: ★

- **AARP Free shredding event**  
Drive through to the American Document Shredding truck on the east side of the Exchange Center.
- **Senior stage entertainment and presentations emceed by News On 6 anchor Lori Fullbright**  
Lori will also give her talk on "Cons, Frauds and Scams" and Assistance League Tulsa will present a fashion show.
- **Rescue pets for adoption and Paw Pals therapy dogs**
- **Rx Take Back with CAPSAT and Tulsa Health Department**  
Bring in your unwanted medications for safe disposal. No liquids, inhalers or syringes.
- **Free event bags**  
Each with the 2021-2022 LIFE's Vintage Guide to Housing & Services
- **Search, Find, Win! for \$100 Reazor's gift cards**



For more information, contact Carol Carter at  
(918) 664-9000, ext. 1219 or [ccarter@LIFEseniorservices.org](mailto:ccarter@LIFEseniorservices.org).

## Join the Alliance...

*Together we make a difference!* The Oklahoma Alliance on Aging, a 501(c) (3), is a statewide non-partisan coalition. The Mission of the Alliance is to identify the needs of aging Oklahomans, to educate on issues, and to advocate for solutions.

As a member, YOU stay informed on issues pertaining to aging Oklahomans. YOU receive a quarterly newsletter, participate in an annual survey on issues, and have an opportunity to attend Education and Strategy committee meetings. The Alliance gives YOU a voice in identifying and prioritizing concerns and issues while following legislation.

## Membership Application: (check one or more)

(Contributions above basic dues are **tax deductible** to the extent allowed by law.)

- |                       |  |   |
|-----------------------|--|---|
|                       | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>New</b>                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Renewal</b>                   |
| <b>Individual</b>     | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Regular (\$25)</b>                       | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Contributing (Over \$25)</b>  |
| <b>Organizational</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Regular (\$100)</b>                      | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Contributing (Over \$100)</b> |
| <b>Sponsors</b>       | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$200 or more</b>                        |   |
| <b>Donation</b>       | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$_____ (any amount is appreciated!)</b> |   |
| <b>Endowment Fund</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$_____ (any amount is appreciated!)</b> |   |

Please designate representative to attend meetings and receive mailings.

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please let us know if you would like to:**

**Volunteer**

(Area of interest) \_\_\_\_\_

**Work on a committee**

(Area of interest)

## Sponsorship Application: (check one)

- \$200 Newsletter**       **\$50 full-page**       **\$30 half page**

Help the Alliance by sponsoring the newsletter yourself or finding someone, an organization or business, to be a sponsor. By becoming a sponsor, you:

- Ensure copies of the newsletter are distributed across the state
- Are recognized in the newsletter edition you sponsor (your name or your organization's name, whichever you prefer)

Contact the Alliance office for details! Call 405-943-1895.

**MAIL TO:** P.O. Box 12008, OKC, OK 73157



Oklahoma Alliance on Aging  
 PO Box 12008  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73157  
[www.okallianceonaging.org](http://www.okallianceonaging.org)

Email: [Marietta.OAOA@gmail.com](mailto:Marietta.OAOA@gmail.com)

Call: (405) 943-1895

Hours: M, W, and F from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
 Marietta Real, Executive Director (PT)

**Officers**

- Ken Jones, President (2020-2022)
- Esther Houser, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (2020-2022)
- Janet Moore, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (2020-2022)
- Annette Mays, Secretary, Treasurer (2020-2022)

**Board of Directors**

- Mary Brinkley, Leading AgeOK
- BJ Mooney, DOC Services
- Trish Emig, Strategy Committee
- Natalie Bingham, Individual
- Anne Davis, Individual

Volunteer: Wanda DeBruler, Newsletter

Special *THANKS* to all our Volunteers and Supporters!

Find. Learn. Give.

View our complete profile at  
**GiveSmartOKC**  
 Know More. Give More.  
[GiveSmartOKC.org](http://GiveSmartOKC.org)

A project of the  
 OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

**2021 CALENDAR**  
*Mark the Dates*

**Meetings, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Quarterly month:**

September 21, 2021  
 December 21, 2021

**Time:** 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
 (If a speaker is scheduled the program time is 1:00 pm.)

**Location:** The Daily Living Center, Board Room  
 3000 N. Rockwell, Bethany, OK

If you are not a member, please join.