***October 9, 2019***

***From the Chair:***

***Okay folks, I finally have completed the summary of our meeting. It is lengthy but use it to the best of your abilities for giving information to your AAA’s and state assemblies as well as your local Council on Aging. This summary should provide you with enough information to get your point across. Use your session programs with it and you should be fully informed.***

***Read it and if you have questions, email or text me.***

***Start thinking about resolutions for next Spring in Washington, DC. There should be enough info to think of something that interests you. We will start the “virtual resolution process” soon.***

***Please attempt to write a resolution to cap insulin and other catastrophic drugs for your state. Please find good data to prove your point that applies by using your state American Diabetes Assoc, your state AARP and state data as well. I hope that NSHC will submit all the state caps resolutions for insulin & catastrophic life-saving drugs. Let us stop the slow raping of our homes and assets. You may send as many as you like and we will sort through them. Next year we will vote on the final ones. Do only issues that apply to seniors.***

***Subjects to be addressed are food insecurities (additional family members returning home); dental; medicare oversight, judicial oversight for guardianships, etc.***

***If I can get something worked out for the next meeting, the resolutions will prove our points.***

***Also, those of you who made pictures of the meeting, please send me some copies.***

***Shirley***

***BTW: Use a thumbdrive to save or you can print. Whichever works for you. This summary is 14 pages but will give what you need to advocate.***



National Silver Haired Congress 21st Session Radisson Hotel Schaumburg, IL September 24-26, 2019 **natlshc.org**

The National Silver Haired Congress met for its 2019 work session in Chicago, Illinois at the Schaumburg Radisson Hotel. Schaumburg Village is located **in Cook County in northeastern Illinois**. For those of us unfamiliar to the area, had a difficult time figuring out which way we should go if we left the hotel. But all in all, we finally got it figured out, direction wise.

The Radisson Staff welcomed us as we checked in.

For those who arrived early to go to the Navy Pier, a most unusual attraction that juts out over Lake Michigan was the first order of business before the conference began. Norine Murphy did a great job securing transportation for us to visit the Navy Pier. The donor for the trip wishes to remain anonymous.

As we entered the Navy Pier, there were numerous shops to stroll through. We decided to put the shops as the last thing on our list before leaving so we could buy tokens to take home.

We wandered through **The** **Crystal Gardens** which is a beautiful indoor, one‐acre, botanical **garden**. This six‐story glass atrium with a 50-foot arched ceiling holds over 80 live palm trees, lush foliage, hanging twinkle lights and dancing leapfrog fountains.

If you have not been there in recent years, you truly missed a treat riding the massive **Ferris Wheel** that stands 196 feet tall from top to bottom. There are 42 gondolas with capacity for each car to hold up to ten people

Equipped with Low-E high-tech safety glass, the new gondolas are enclosed, air-conditioned, and climate-controlled for optimum comfort. You get a lengthy ride to photograph panoramic views of the Navy Pier and the city skyline along the shore, moving in slow motion. We certainly took advantage of our ride with our phone cameras.

After spending the morning exploring the Navy Pier, it was time to go back to the hotel for a board meeting. Registration then followed.

A short recovery period was had before the Reception with hors d’oeuvres and mingling among each other to say “hello” before session began the next day.

Every morning, the hotel served hearty buffet style breakfasts to get the day started.

Session was opened with hostesses, Chaplain Norine Murphy and Matt Barnes, welcoming us to their state of Illinois. At that point our hostesses were presented glossy black cups with the Silver Haired Congress Seal imprinted on the cups.

West Virginia was in attendance with all their delegates. The first state to do so in three years. Congratulations West Virginia!

The newly elected mayor, Mayor Tom Dailly began our session with a hearty welcome from the village of Schaumburg. The mayor opened his conversation with us by saying, *“we take care of our seniors”. Caring for seniors is a responsibility that we do not take lightly.*

Hecontinued by telling us about the programs and efforts he has initiated to stay in place, by helping seniors age safely in his village. He encouraged our seniors to feel free to move about in their village and explore. Meet our seniors and let them tell you how they feel about our programs.

We discussed the type of local government that governs their village (municipalities). I had said to him in discussion, the difficulty I had in reaching his office. He explained how they were set up and thus it would be hard for a newcomer to know. He reached inside of his suit jacket and handed me his business card with his personal cell number to call if we should need or want anything while we were visiting in his hometown and he would take care of it. It certainly took me by surprise as well as the group’s reaction.

We encountered a most unusual situation that I was aware of but the membership did not know about. I was contacted by Ray Willis, recently retired leader of HUD in Chicago. He used our website **www.natlshc.org** to make contact. In conversation to me, he reiterated to me that he was interested in our group. The longer the conversation continued, the more impressed I became. I decided that it was in our best interest to invite him to our conference and let him tell our group why he wanted to be a part of us. As he finalized his conversation, the members decided that would be a big positive for the work we were doing. Ray feels he has the “knowledge and know-how” to use a “long arm” effect to help us be heard in Congress with our senior issues. Ray Willis is becoming a new member for NSHC.

As the agenda continued, Mr. Bob Gallo, Chicago Senior Director for AARP and Lori Hendren, Associate Director of Chicago AARP came to speak about the details of price gouging of insulin and other catastrophic drugs that maintain the existence of consumer lives. The discussion became intense as to how pharmaceuticals and drug makers were “fleecing” the American public. The realization of this subject matter and the information presented by AARP puts us as advocates on the same side to fight for lower and more reasonable prices for drugs which consumers can be able to afford. The “raping” of senior citizens on a fixed income must have a say! We as the Silver Haired Congress and the AARP can do that, together!

There are over 30 million Americans who have diabetes. 7.4 million people require prescription insulin every day to survive.

Senate Bill 667 will make Illinois the second state to set a cap on insulin payments. Colorado was the first. NC should follow suit for being #3 in their General Assembly. WE need more states to follow so we can get all 50 states on board.

Here is the **resolution** we are presenting to the General Assembly in NC. **You may use this resolution but change the data information to accommodate your state: A bill can be made in its formal writing from your state assemblies.**

**August 9, 2019**

**Submitted by: Shirley Wiggins, Chairperson**

**COA, NCSTHL, RFAAC, NSHC County: Gaston County, North Carolina**

**NC Cap on Insulin for Type 1 & 2 Diabetics**

**WHEREAS:** The percentage of Americans age 65 and older remains high, at 25.2% (12.0 million seniors), and an average of 1.5 million Americans are diagnosed with diabetes every year; and **North Carolina has recently been named the 17th fattest state in the nation and has a 45% obesity rate for diabetes in the nation)**; and

**WHEREAS:** Elderly individuals make up a very vulnerable population with increased risk for developing diabetes (e.g. diabetes is the **seventh leading cause** **of death in North Carolina**), and one of the fastest growing diabetes-related complications is chronic kidney disease, which can lead to **renal failure** and the need for dialysis; and

**WHEREAS: (a.) North Carolina Medicaid** costs per individual for insulin can go as high as $100 per month, but the majority of coverage payments are under $30 or free, and **(b.)** insulin costs for the **insured patient** have soared to about $400 - $720 a month, and **(c.)** the cost of insulin has tripled over the past 10 years and continues to rise;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the North Carolina Legislature will enact, and the Governor will sign, legislation to **cap co-pays on insulin at $100 per month** regardless of the amount of usage by a patient having either Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes. (Thus, insurance companies will be required to cover any amount over $100).

We can make this happen!

**Take this to your state levels and advocate on behalf of your Silver Haired Congresses and other organizations to make this happen for diabetic seniors diagnosed and those who are not diagnosed.**

We adjourned for lunch after an enlightening, lengthy morning.

We invited our guest to enjoy a buffet lunch. I have to express my appreciation to the hotel for providing great tasting food for us to enjoy.

Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky sent her representative to our conference because she was called back to Washington, DC. Her name was Maribeth Stein. Maribeth came with a lot of enthusiasm to tell us the Congresswoman sends her best wishes for a good meeting and apologizes for her absence.

She wanted remind to us the SHIIP program will be open October 15 – December 7 for our Part D program. There are some changes in the program such as, the doughnut will close according to the Affordable Care Act.

Beginning in 2019, Part D enrollees will pay 25% of the cost of all their prescription drugs from the time they enter the gap until they reach catastrophic coverage.

According to our discussions with her, there really was not a closing of the gap; instead it has been maneuvered around in the wording. It was only done to force pharmas to pay more of the costs. They are now being forced to pay more costs but not nearly enough to call it fair.

Congresswoman Schakowsky supports seniors fully. She states, “***Older Americans have spent many years working to raise families, pay their taxes, protect our country and build our communities. They have the right to the benefits that they have earned and to know that they will have the resources they need in retirement. That is why I so strongly oppose efforts to privatize Social Security or reduce benefits, to turn Medicare over to private insurance companies and turn it into "vouchercare", or jeopardize access to long-term care services by cutting Medicaid and turning it into a block grant. We can ensure the longevity of these programs by making them more efficient. We do not need to cut benefits”.***

***“I am also committed to expanding access to the full range of long-term care services and supports, and helping seniors age in place within their own communities. We must build upon the Older Americans Act to meet those needs”.***

The Older Americans Act (OAA) has been passed by the House for a 5-year period with a continuing resolution. An increase has been proposed with a 7% increase the 1st year and 6% increase additional for each of the next 4 years. The Senate must add their approval but is expected to be passed.

Director of Senior Services, Megan Conway came to inform us that seniors are working diligently in their village (municipality) to make all seniors have the support they need to “age in place”. She like most administrators for aging, wears many hats for senior programs as well as VA disability services. Their AAA (Area Agency on Aging) is set up by villages or townships. Megan is a qualifier for the AAA. She is quite a vibrant and active person with great ideas and who loves her job.

We were told they do Bingo lunches, take theater trips and one thing I noticed was “Bridges to Memory” for Alzheimer in a YouTube video. If a senior is noticed as signs of memory or hearing problems, the aging staff tend to pay more attention to that person by talking to them about themselves so they can stay familiar with their surroundings later. I have no idea how long that continues but they seem to respond, according to her.

She also discussed the idea that hearing aids protect brain functions for seniors. Cosco was mentioned but did not elaborate.

Schaumburg does have property tax breaks for seniors and also veteran services. Schaumburg schedules on a monthly basis for senior transportation services so that each senior relies heavily on, when they schedule their doctor appointments. Newsletters are distributed throughout the village so that citizens can stay informed to keep track of activities they can participate in.

It is always bad to assume anything but I mentioned bike lanes they have for bikers and added to that. I asked if they had golf cart lanes as well for those seniors who can get around. I was told traffic is much too heavy for golf carts. They have additional programs for those who need help if something comes up that is not on the schedule.

Chicago shows a lot of respect for their seniors. I saw examples of that everywhere I went. Believe me I was almost everywhere when the big storms hit. Bea Colson and I were stranded for three days before we got home. Attention was paid to us like we were royalty with the utmost respect.

Break time came and went before anyone noticed. The questions and answers coming from the members were quite informative. So much so, we finally had to stop the meeting.

It now is the last day of session and a lot of information flowed over the group with a lot of handouts.

The hotel served up a hearty breakfast buffet and Norine Murphy, our chaplain, began the day with “food for thought”.

Among the more interesting of subject matters to be discussed was our next guest Mr. Ken Ditkowsky, a recently retired lawyer from downtown Chicago. He distinguished himself by saying he was a Jewish lawyer who spent most of his career fighting for all US citizens, born or naturalized, for individual rights by jurisdiction in and of the United States and states they reside in. In other words, the Fourteenth Amendment, Section One.

In my mind, as I listen to Ken who was sitting beside me at the head table, I kept thinking I had Matlock, my favorite TV attorney, in my sights. We did a roundtable atmosphere wherein the lawyer would feel more comfortable and still command their attention by sitting in his chair at the front table. He was wearing a long sleeve shirt with an open collar. As he began discussing with us the rights that seniors have in their estate planning, he rolled up his sleeves, folded his arms like a country lawyer and continued to talk to us about a case of a disabled person.

Adjudication of Disability: Power to appoint guardian which begins with the filing of a petition by a reputable person or by the alleged person with a disability or its own motion or the court may adjudge a disabled person. But only if it has been demonstrated by clear and convincing evidence that the person is a person with a disability according to statue. He went on to say that it had to be demonstrated as clear and convincing evidence of the disability.

Guardianship shall utilized only as is necessary to promote the well-being of the person with the disability, to protect him from neglect, exploitation, or abuse and to encourage development of his maximum self-reliance and independence.

Notice of rights to respondent:

If you have been named as a respondent in a guardianship petition asking that you be declared a disabled person. If the court grants a petition, a guardian will be appointed for you. You then have the right to: a. a date and time of the hearing b. the place where the hearing will be held c. the Judge’s name and phone number

If a guardian is appointed for you, the guardian may be given the right to make all important personal decisions for you, such as where you may live, what medical treatment you may receive, what places you may visit, and who may visit you. A guardian may also be given the right to control and manage your money and other property, including your home, if you own one. You may lose the right to make these decisions for yourself.

You have the following rights:

1. You have the right to be present at the court hearing. 2. You have the right to be represented by a lawyer. Either one that you retain or one appointed by the Judge. 3. You have the right to ask for a jury of six persons to hear your case. 4. You have the right to present evidence to the court and to confront and cross-examine witnesses. 5. You have the right to ask the Judge to appoint an independent expert to examine you and give an opinion about your need for a guardian. 6. You have the right to ask that the court hearing be closed to the public. 7. You have the right to tell the court whom you prefer to have for you guardian.

You do not have to attend the court hearing if you do not want to be there. If you do not attend, the Judge may appoint a guardian if the Judge finds that a guardian would be of benefit to you. The hearing will not be postponed or canceled if you do **not** attend.

**IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU ATTEND THE HEARING IF YOU DO NOT WANT A GUARDIAN OR IF YOU WANT SOMEONE OTHER THAN THE PERSON NAMED IN THE GUARDIANSHIP PETITION TO BE YOUR GUARDIAN. IF YOU DO NOT WANT A GUARDIAN OF IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER PROBLEMS, YOU SHOULD CONTACT AN ATTORNEY OR COME TO COURT AND TELL THE JUDGE.**

Service of summons and petition may be made by a private person 18 years of age or over who is not a party to the action.

(f) Notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be given by the petitioner by mail or in person to those persons, including the proposed guardian, whose names and addresses appear in the pertition and who do waive notice, not less than 14 days before the hearing. (Source: P.A. 95-373, eff. 8-23-07; 96-1052, eff.7-14-10)

**Amendment 14 - Citizenship Rights**

1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the [jurisdiction](https://www.usconstitution.net/glossary.html#JURIS) thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State [deprive](https://www.usconstitution.net/glossary.html#DEPRIVE) any person of life, liberty, or property, without [due process](https://www.usconstitution.net/consttop_duep.html) of law; nor deny to any person within its [jurisdiction](https://www.usconstitution.net/glossary.html#JURIS) the equal protection of the laws.

Amendment 14 is the rule that proves your rights as a citizen of these United States. I tried hard to get these notes as close as possible for you to understand. I have to admit I am glad he spelled this out for us to understand.

Now our biggest problem is “oversight” of the three-man team the Judge appoints for these cases. There is on-line “virtual oversight” for judicial hearings but “no active oversight” except in name only. Accountability is missing! This needs to be rectified if the system is to operate fairly. A great big thank you to Ken Ditkowsky!

Following Ken’s presentation we had a “yo yo” lunch. That means “you’re on your own”. We did not realize the restaurant in the hotel was not serving lunch. We got all excited and thought about the problem and came up with a solution of ordering take-out of Chicago pizza. While we were figuring about how many pizzas it would take to feed everybody, Bob Blancato came strolling into the hotel to speak but started helping out. My head was in a circular motion desperately trying to get everybody satisfied. We all pitched our money in, while Bob did the figuring. By the time the money was satisfied, here came the pizza. We went to the dining room so that we all could sit down. According to Norine, the pizza was the best pizza in town. After everyone got what they wanted, we still had pizza. I do not believe I have never seen that much pizza in one place before; but, it was really good!

**Bob Blancato, our Advisor to the NSHC**, brought a power point presentation to update us on the Older American Act (OAA). This is the power point (The Dignity in Aging) detailing the Older American Act, 2019. This is excellent for use in your home meetings.

**OAA is the main community-based program for older adults**

* Last week, the House Education and Labor Committee passed H.R. 4334, the Dignity in Aging Act, aka the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act
* A bipartisan modest 5-year extension of this great Act

**FY 2020 Funding**

* Key development—passage of 2-year bipartisan budget agreement
* Does 2 things—no sequestration and allows for increases in programs

**Where we stand:**

* First order of business: pass a Continuing Resolution; funding bills will not be finished by Sept 30. Take that to bank
* So the tried and true CR must get passed—ensuring uninterrupted funding likely through November 21
* Get past that and we see
* House already passed a good group of funding bills, especially for HHS
* As it relates to aging programs—House-passed bill provides some good increases in programs such as nutrition, supportive services, SCSEP
* After Senate finally acts, must work out differences with House
* And work to keep poison pills off the bill. That has already delayed key spending bills in the Senate
* And for the President to sign final bills that pass
* It may get more complicated because of the CR
* Can defer items and then face another deadline
* Issues like the wall as an example

**Older Americans Act: Good Progress to Report**

* OAA is the main community-based program for older adults
* Last week, the House Education and Labor Committee passed H.R. 4334, the Dignity in Aging Act, aka the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act
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**Important Provisions**

* 35% increase in total authorizations over life of bill
* Sends important message to actual funders
* Establishes an Interagency Coordinating Committee on Age Friendly Communities and tasks this committee with coordinating efforts to promote safe and accessible independent living environments
* Provides greater support for family caregivers, including the use of caregiver assessments
* Adds malnutrition screening to the act as part of nutrition screening within broader routine health screening of disease prevention and health promotion services
* Also adds reducing malnutrition as stated objective of the nutrition program
* Brings research, evaluation and demonstration programs back into the Act after a long absence
* Places a greater focus on social isolation by empowering local organizations to evaluate solutions for social isolation and incorporating social isolation screening into health and supportive services
* Continues the Falls Prevention and Chronic Disease Self-Management programs
* And adds social determinants of health to the purposes of Title III

**OAA: What Happens Next**

* Bill moves to House floor
  + Indications are it passes because it began as a bipartisan process
  + Good political bill to pass for older adults
* Senate must follow quickly
  + Had a draft bill but nothing more
* House and Senate must work out differences
* And President must sign
* Before Sept 30? Not likely, but program goes on

**NSHC Perspective on House Bill**

* Bill is a basic reauthorization but many of the new provisions are important for seniors living in the community
* Emphasis on falls prevention, chronic disease self-management, age- friendly communities, malnutrition and social isolation are all key to being able to live independently
* Increases in funding also would mean that these important programs can continue to serve the growing older adult population

**Medicare Advantage and Part D**

* Administration just announced that Medicare Advantage and Part D premiums are lower than they’ve been in years – MA lowest since 2007 and Part D lowest since 2013
* Growth in MA is stunning – enrollment in MA in 2020 is expected to have increased by 30.6 percent since 2017, up to 24.4 million people
* Part of this may be due to the new supplemental benefits for the chronically ill for 2020
* However, though premiums continue to decrease, Rx drug prices continue to increase, which in turn increases co-insurance for Part D beneficiaries

**Hot Topic: What’s the Prescription for Rx Drugs?**

* Lowering prescription drug costs is a hot policy and political issue
* So many ideas but so little time
* Trump offers proposals, from ending rebates to international pricing to most recently opening the door to importation—the Florida model?
* Can agreement be reached, especially with the impeachment inquiry announcement?

**Comparison: Senate vs. House Rx Bills**

**Senate Finance Bill**

* $3,100 cap on out-of-pocket costs of Part D prescription drugs
* Inflation rebates: companies would have to repay govt for excessive price increases of Rx drugs (increases over inflation)

**House/Pelosi Bill**

* International pricing index
* Final drug prices negotiated with manufacturers
* Inflation rebates
* Caps out-of-pocket Part D at $2,000
* Reinvests savings into vision/hearing/dental benefits

**Social Security Update**

* Currently solvent through 2035 – meaning after 2035, would not be able to pay out full benefits to retirees/disabled (would be a 20% cut)
* In other words, the system will exhaust its cash reserves and will be able to pay out only what it takes in year-to-year in Social Security taxes (about 88% of current SS funding)
* Legislation called the **Social Security 2100 Ac**t has been introduced in the House and Senate
* **Would increase payroll taxes slightly for employers/employees, but keep SS solvent through 2100 and increase benefits for retirees/disabled**
* Will likely pass House (210 co-sponsors) but fail in Senate (no **Rs** on bill at all in House or Senate; only 2 Ds in Senate)

**Elder Justice**

* Any community is only as good as it is safe, especially from elder abuse, neglect and exploitation
* A growing focus in D.C.
* Proud to be **National Coordinator of the bipartisan Elder Justice Coalition**

**Elder Abuse By the Numbers**

* 1 in 10 older adults will be victims of elder abuse – more than 6 million
* An FBI report says that some 50,000 people over 60 lost over $342 million just to internet fraud and scams in 2017 alone
* According to a 2019 report issued by Comparitech, a consumer research organization based in the UK, the number of financial abuse cases in the U.S. might be closer to 5 million with losses in excess of $27 billion a year

**Combating Elder Abuse**

* Key element in any national strategy to combat elder abuse is to recognize that solutions work best at the local level
* Resources to support local efforts need more prominence
* APS as example
* Support for multidisciplinary teams in communities
* Better training of people working in aging on elder abuse

**Elder Justice Act Reauthorization?**

* Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Chairman of Finance Committee, writing an Elder Justice Reform Act
* Expected introduction this month
* Main features for reauthorization are likely to be dedicated funding for APS, more support for LTCOP and forensic center funding
* Bill will also have a substantial focus on nursing home reforms

**Nursing Home Reforms**

* New bill is expected to offer new reforms, including:
* Periodic audits of data submitted by nursing homes to achieve a rating
* More prompt reporting of crimes that occur or face civil penalties
* Ensuring there are plans in facilities to deal with disasters
* Stronger criminal background check program to weed bad people out before they get in
* Key is to link reforms to condition to participate in Medicaid and Medicare

**2020 Election**

* **Less than 14 months from the pivotal 2020 Presidential and Congressional elections**
* **To me two things could well determine the outcome: TRUMP and TURNOUT**
* **Is it about issues or all about Trump?**
* **What issues and which affect turnout one way or the other and who benefits?**
* **How many more candidates can fit on a stage? Who next to drop?**
* **Older voter even more important as their numbers increase**
* **Predictions—House and Senate remain as they are**
* **Presidential race closer than 2016**

**Conclusions**

* **Stay informed**
* Continue to **participate**
* Important example: **2020 Census** is vital to counting true numbers of older adults to make sure Congress gives the funding needed to each state
* Make sure your friends, neighbors and loved ones **fill out their forms**
* In other words, **keep doing what you do!**

**Resources**

* NANASP Advocacy: <http://nanasp.org/take-action>
* NANASP Resources: <http://nanasp.org/resources>
* NANASP Conference: <http://nanasp.org/NANASP2020Conference>
* Capitol Switchboard: 202-224-3121
* rblancato@matzblancato.com

Thank you Bob Blancato for a great presentation!! So nice to see you again!

As our final speaker, Senator Laura Murphy, State Senator of Illinois, came to speak. Her mother is one of our members, Norine Murphy. The Senator’s busy schedule was so tight, I was not sure that her visit would happen.

She expressed her appreciation for inviting her to be a part of “proud Mother’s” role in senior activism and welcomed all of us to her home area and state.

**Senator Murphy** voted to protect the middle class, by making full pension payments. This budget begins **Illinois**’ path to stability. It prioritizes spending on programs that will help working and middle class families and responsibly allocates funds for our annual obligations.

State Senator Laura Murphy is attempting to reform the state’s regressive property tax system. As part of the Fair Tax legislative package, to determine ways legislators could reform the state’s regressive property tax system to reduce taxes on low- and middle- income earners. …”Addressing our backward property tax system will keep people in Illinois and more importantly give their working families a path to economic stability.”

She went on to say that seniors are being hit by price gouging of catastrophic drugs. Here are facts in the handouts:

* 965,452 Illinois Residents diagnosed with cancer
* 1,210,443 Illinois Residents have pre-diabetes or diabetes
* 389,779 Illinois Residents have heart disease
* The average annual cost for one brand name drug used to treat a chronic health condition topped $5,800 last year in Illinois.
* The average older American takes 4.5 prescription drugs, typically on a chronic basis.
* Big Pharma spent nearly **$169 million** for lobbying and more than **$6 billion** for advertising in 2018.
* Americans pay double what similar countries pay for the same name brand drugs.
* Nearly 80% of every Big Pharma dollar goes to something other than research and development!
* AARP is supporting the Illinois Assembly to get the Cap on catastrophic drugs such as insulin, cancer drugs and heart disease drugs. It’s time to reduce the financial burden on patients requiring life-saving drugs in Illinois.
* **Senate Bill 667 will make Illinois the second state to set a cap on insulin payments. Colorado was the first.**

***“Senate Bill 667 caps patient’s out-of-pocket costs for prescription insulin at $100 for a 30-day supply. It also directs the Attorney General’s office to investigate reasons for rising prescription insulin costs to ensure sufficient consumer protections in the pricing of insulin prescription drugs. The Attorney General’s will issue a one-time detailing its findings and public policy recommendations for controlling and preventing overpricing of prescription insulin.” AARP supported***

**Common Sense Solutions:**

* Allow Medicare to Negotiate Prescription Prices.
* Cap Out-of-Pocket Costs.
* Improve Access to Lower-Cost Generic Drugs.
* Oversight of drug makers and pharmaceuticals.

After many long discussions and loads of information to take home, I believe this work session gave us an insight as to how critical issues, are for seniors. The irony of this is the fact our issues are affecting younger age groups as well. This leads me to think that maybe the long-shot of our issues is also a “climate issue” thus bringing the younger senior age groups aboard.

Our work session has just concluded and we are now to celebrate the bulk of our efforts looking for solutions with a nice sit-down dinner. I was presented a plaque by Lonnie Strait, NV for “Outstanding Service to the Organization” as NSHC President 2015-2019. A beautiful plaque; it is! It is most graciously appreciated!

This report contains enough information for you to take back to your states to share with your state assemblies for resolutions. It is time for our virtual resolutions process to begin and I will guide you through it. The final vote on the resolutions will take place in next year in Washington, DC.

Thank you all for supporting me. I know I have annoyed you for answers to get my work done but I will continue to do so, so hang around! I can’t accomplish without your help.

E-mail from Jean Ingram: Wed, Oct 9, 2019 2:05 pm

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| JEAN INGRAM jeaningram@comcast.netHide | |
| To | demwiggins demwiggins@aol.com |

Shirley Just had to pass this along.  I had lunch today with the former speaker of the Alabama Silver Haired Legislature where I was the secretary for many years.  He always asks about our sessions so this year I took the booklet that you passed out and he reviewed it - to put it in context "he was blown away".  He asked me to give you his compliments on putting together such a comprehensive document. I told him you always do a great job and we're lucky to have you.  I wish he was able to join but at 90 he is not as spry and has a time keeping his balance. I hope we can all hold it together - it is just too good to go bad.

Jean

Re: Compliment Wed, Oct 9, 2019 2:05 pm

JEAN INGRAM ([jeaningram@comcast.net](mailto:jeaningram@comcast.net)) To: you Details

Absolutely.

On October 9, 2019 at 1:24 PM [demwiggins@aol.com](mailto:demwiggins@aol.com) wrote: I agree it is too good to go bad. Members need to recruit and help me up the membership. I beg them to help me.

Jean, Is it okay to share this in my summary?

Now, it is time to go home!