

# Social Engagement Among Tribal Elders: Creative Activities and Approaches



Leaders in Aging Well at Home

February 24, 2023

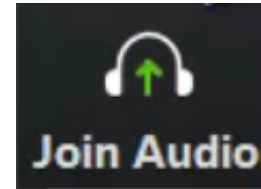


DIVERSE  
ELDERS  
COALITION

# Webinar Instructions

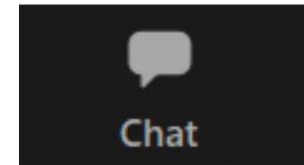
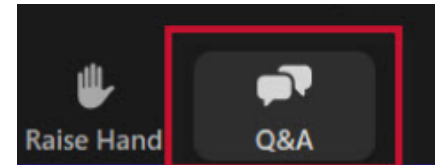
## Audio Options

- Use your computer speakers, **OR** dial in using the phone number in your registration email.
- All participants are muted.



## Questions and Answers (Q&A)

- You can submit questions for the panelists at any time during this presentation. On the Zoom module on the bottom of your screen, click the Q&A icon, type your question in the box and submit.



CLICK HERE TO START CHAT

# Accessibility and Support

- **Screen Reader Users: Reduce unwanted chatter**
  - Request speech on demand: Insert, Spacebar, “S”
- **Webinar participants can view closed caption subtitles, watch a live transcript of the meeting or adjust the size of subtitle text**
  - To control closed captions, click on the CC Live Transcript button in the control bar at the bottom of the Zoom window
- **To get our attention if you need tech assistance:**
  - Raise or Lower Hand: Alt + Y

# USAging

- USAging represents and supports the national network of Area Agencies on Aging and advocates for the Title VI Native American Aging Programs that help older adults and people with disabilities live with optimal health, well-being, independence and dignity in their homes and communities.
- [www.usaging.org](http://www.usaging.org)

# Overview of engAGED

- National effort to increase social engagement among older adults, people with disabilities and their caregivers
- Administered by USAging
- Funded by the U.S. Administration on Aging, which is part of the Administration for Community Living
- Broad-based Project Advisory Committee
- [www.engagingolderadults.org](http://www.engagingolderadults.org)

# Presenters



## **Cynthia LaCounte**

Director, Office for American Indians, Alaskan Natives & Native Hawaiian Programs, Administration on Aging/Administration for Community Living

## **Bethany Lay**

Acting Director, Seneca Nation Area Office for the Aging

## **Joyce Hayes**

Title VI Director, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

## **Myra Fred**

Caregiver Coordinator, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes



# Cynthia LaCounte

Contact Information:

Email: [Cynthia.LaCounte@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:Cynthia.LaCounte@acl.hhs.gov)

Telephone: 202-795-7380





# Seneca Nation Area Office for the Aging

Promoting Social Engagements and Activities to Seneca Elders

To provide a place where our Elders can congregate to fulfill many of their social, physical, emotional, and intellectual needs to prevent social isolation. Elder Centers are community focal points that offer services including meal and nutrition programs, information and assistance, health, fitness, and wellness programs, social and recreational activities, educational and arts programs, and intergenerational programs.



This map also shows that we also have aboriginal territories in the Buffalo and Niagara Falls, NY areas.





The Seneca Nation is located in Western NY. We have two Elder Centers and three Congregate locations.

- Two sites are located in the City of Salamanca, NY, and one in Irving, NY.

Seneca Nation has over 900 Enrolled Elders. Not all live in our service area, and some are not ready for our services.

To date, we service around 465 Elders, and approximately 3700 units of service a month.

- The Senecas are part of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy which are compiled of 6 Nations, who are the Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Mohawk and Tuscarora and are located throughout NYS.



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- As with Other Offices for the Aging when COVID arrived we were all challenged with isolation and to many of us we were dealt with loneliness, depression, not being able to be with family, travel and most importantly a challenge to our mental health.
  - It was our duty to outreach as many Elders we could. Our Seneca Health Dept. Case Managers did weekly friendly outreach calls to our Elders to make sure their needs were addressed and collaborated with many Seneca Nation Depts. such as AOA,
  - Our Nutrition program tripled in Home delivered Meals. We delivered safely, hot meals and cold meals until it was safe to open our congregate sites which was in August 2021 our sites were open for only congregate. Our Elder Centers were able to open fully in July of 2022 and we still do Grab and go Meals to Elders who don't wish to congregate yet. During this time most of NYS AOA's were still closed and many depend on volunteers to run their congregate sites and delivered meals and the pandemic depleted many of those volunteers so that their centers could run so Seneca Nation was very fortunate to be open with full support from the Tribal Council.

- To promote our AOA services a new position of Outreach Coordinator was created to implement an outreach plan for the Seneca Nation Elders.
- Many of the functions of this position was to develop and execute a marketing plan for the Seneca Nation AOA program, to provide information to our community Elders about our resources, facilities, and location of services. Also to do outreach opportunities at events such as fairs, festivals, and local community events.
- We have a very enthusiastic and go getter Outreach Coordinator who has done all this and more to recruit newly turned 60 Elders.
- I have included one of her many pamphlets she's created and also a letter which she sends to our Seneca Elders welcoming them to being an Official Seneca Elder.





## SENECA NATION AOA

Dear Seneca Elder,

Nya:wěh Sgě:nó. Aó'e:sad hō:sahseho' (Happy Birthday!)

You are receiving this letter because you are now sixty years old and officially an Elder! As an elder, you are eligible for a wide range of AOA programs and services. The enclosed flyer has more detailed information about what AOA has to offer.

If you are looking for ways to stay active and engaged in your community, we hope you will reach out to us. There are many opportunities to get involved, including congregate meals at our Elder centers, weekly shopping trips, and Seneca Elder events and entertainment.

If you need support or assistance, please don't hesitate to contact AOA. Some services that are available to Seneca Elders are free legal assistance, emergency minor home repair, caregiver support, snow removal and large item pick-up (provided by SNI DPW), and options counseling/assistance obtaining long-term services and supports. Home delivered meals, personal response units, and personal care aides are available to qualifying homebound Elders upon assessment.

Please contact our offices in Cattaraugus or Allegany for more information on the services we provide or to get involved. We are so happy to welcome you to our growing community of Seneca Elders and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Bethany Lay – Acting AOA Director



Allegany Office - 3644 Administration Drive, Salamanca, NY 14779 (716) 945-8990  
Cattaraugus Office - 8 Thomas Indian School Drive, Irving, NY 14081 (716) 532-5777

A welcome letter, goodie packet and AOA newsletter is sent to new Elders turning 60

Hayé:neah  
SEPTEMBER 2022



## ELDER LIVING

Seneca Nation Area Office for the Aging

Remember  
the Removal:  
Sat. Sept. 24

Residential  
School  
Healing Walk:  
Sat. Sept. 30



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### Director's Update

Nya:wěh Sgě:nó' I am thankful you are well.

A second Elder Resource Fair will be held in Allegany Sept. 15 for anyone who missed the June event in Cattaraugus. More details on that and other community events can be found inside this issue.

Also in September we resume respite/in-home contact and support in Cattaraugus. Welcome to our new Respite Care Provider, Hailey Brooks. And we wish Nancy Printup a happy retirement after 37 years of dedicated service.

Ēsgögě' ae' - I'll see you again.  
Bethany Lay

SNI & AOA Offices  
Closed:  
9/5 -Labor Day  
9/16 -Ogwe'o:weh Day

Allegany Office - 3644 Administration Drive, Salamanca, NY 14779 (716) 945-8414  
Cattaraugus Office - 28 Thomas Indian School Drive, Irving, NY 14081 (716) 532-5777

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# HONOR OUR ELDERS



**Wear Purple** - June 15th  
For Elder Abuse Awareness Day

## Stand Up Against Elder Abuse

Elders are an important part of our community. They are our wisdom keepers and first teachers. They deserve our respect and protection. Sadly, elder abuse most often occurs at home and by family members or caregivers. Most cases of elder abuse are undetected, under-reported, and unresolved.

On June 15th show that you care by wearing purple. Help raise awareness of this important and often overlooked issue.

Speak out to elders in your life.  
Show that you care and appreciate them.

**Īyágwahstéeg Hadigéhji 'da'**  
We will cherish the elders.



SENeca NATION  
Economic System

CCA



# Joyce Hayes & Myra Fred

Contact Information:

Email: [jhayes@sbtribes.com](mailto:jhayes@sbtribes.com) or [mfred@sbtribes.com](mailto:mfred@sbtribes.com)

Telephone: (208) 478-3700



# engAGED Resources

- New! A manual on Implementing Hybrid Programs
- Updated! A re-launched and updated Community Awareness Toolkit
- Other resources:
  - Social Engagement Innovations Hub
  - Tips for holding Virtual Events manual
  - Videos
  - Consumer brochures
- Monthly newsletter and blog
- [www.engagingolderadults.org](http://www.engagingolderadults.org)



# Commit to Connect

- Aim is to connect people living with isolation with programs and resources to build the social connections they need to thrive
- Fostering a nationwide network of champions who are committed to addressing social isolation and loneliness
  - Online discussions
  - Communities of Practice
  - Community of Interest webinars
  - Peer Networking opportunities
  - Newsletter and resources
- Funded by ACL
- USAging serves as the Coordinating Center
- [committtoconnect.org](http://committtoconnect.org)



# Register Now: 2023 engAGED and Commit to Connect Virtual Summit

- This two-day virtual event will be held May 9 and 10, from 1:00-4:00 pm ET.
- More information on the event and how to register can be found on the engAGED website.

# Questions and Discussion

Please submit your questions or comments  
through the Q&A.

# Thank You!

- Please complete the survey which will be displayed in your browser after Zoom closes. There is also a brief 3-month survey.
- The recording will be available on [www.engagingolderadults.org](http://www.engagingolderadults.org).

# Connect With Us!

- [www.engagingolderadults.org](http://www.engagingolderadults.org)
- Facebook: @engAGEDCenter
- Twitter: @engAGEDCenter
- [info@engagingolderadults.org](mailto:info@engagingolderadults.org)