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NANASP in 2017: Activities and Accomplishments

Submitted by: Robert Blancato, Pam Carlson, Scott Carlson and Meredith Ponder Whitmire

As the holiday season is upon us, we find ourselves reflecting on the past year and those who have helped to shape our association. It's been quite a year for us all! Thanks to collective efforts from the [NANASP Board of Directors](#) and Staff, we have helped NANASP achieve a strong financial year with a 24% increase in assets.

We continue to maintain and use a working knowledge of significant developments and trends in the field of aging while advocating for federal funds to support senior nutrition programs. From advocacy to grants and education, here's a look back at what NANASP has done this year.

At this special time of year, we give thanks for members like you who have enriched the lives of older adults all year long. We look forward to working with you in 2018 and the years to come! Happy Holidays!

Advocacy in Action: Funding, Healthcare & New Administration in 2017

Appropriations/Funding

After three continuing resolutions, Congress finally passed an omnibus funding package on May 4, 2017 to fund FY 2017. It did not contain most of the President's proposed offset cuts to non-defense programs. It increased funding for OAA nutrition and home and community-based services, kept many other programs and block grants level-funded, and cut the Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP), Medicare State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs), and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). NANASP's advocacy team diligently worked on these funding increase efforts in conjunction with other nutrition organizations.

Fiscal Year 2018 budget work began with the release of President Trump so called 'skinny budget' It included the outright elimination of a number of key programs for older adults including the SCSEP, Community Services Block Grant and the Legal Services Corporation. It also called for the elimination of the Community Development Block Grant which provides a limited amount of funding for home delivered meals. The day after the budget was released the Budget Director Mick Mulvaney when asked about cuts to meals on wheels said they did so because the programs showed "no results". This comment provoked an outcry and led to renewed interest by Members of Congress on a bi partisan basis in their local home delivered meals programs. NANASP assisted a number of Congressional offices during this time and Bob

Blancato was asked by Huffington Post to do [an article on the controversy](#) which received considerable attention.

To date, all of the proposed elimination of programs that the President asked for have were rejected by Congress in their early work on the FY 2018 budget. The House and Senate Appropriations Committees have since released their final funding bills and passed them through committee, and the House has passed its funding bills through the full chamber.

However, a final spending agreement between the House and the Senate for all federal programs was not reached in time for the start of FY2018 in October, so the government is currently operating under a continuing resolution (CR), which holds all funding at FY2017 levels. The most recent CR, passed December 21, 2017, expires January 19, 2018. House and Senate leaders are currently negotiating final funding for the rest of the year. NANASP's advocacy team will continue to advocate for the highest levels possible for all important programs to NANASP members for FY2018 and the upcoming FY2019 this year.

Health Care Reform

On May 4, the House of Representatives passed the revised American Health Care Act (AHCA), which would have repealed parts of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), by a vote of 217-213. Twenty Republicans and all Democrats voted against the bill. After several attempts at repeal of the ACA, the Senate's final attempt came in September. That time, the Senate decided not to vote on the Graham-Cassidy bill which would also have repealed parts of the ACA after three Republican senators expressed opposition, enough to stop the bill from passing since all Democratic senators were united in opposition as well. This has stopped the ACA repeal effort for now. NANASP and its members mobilized against these repeal efforts and, combined with the rest of the aging community, provided an important voice in the movement.

New Administration

In August 2017, Lance Robertson from Oklahoma was confirmed as the new Assistant Secretary for Aging and Administrator of the Administration for Community Living. Executive Director Bob Blancato attended his swearing-in ceremony as a personal invitee of Robertson.

Malnutrition and Older Adults

NANASP continued to be highly involved with the issue of senior malnutrition in 2017. Executive Director Bob Blancato and Federal Policy and Advocacy Manager Meredith Ponder Whitmire presented at many conferences this year across the country on this topic. Some of the highlights of the work NANASP has done include collaborations with the Defeat Malnutrition Today coalition (such as the release of the [National Blueprint: Achieving Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults](#)) and presentations at the NANASP-NISC Joint Conference.

Washington Bulletins/Updates

A total of **35 Washington Bulletins** were disseminated in 2017. A major focus of Bulletins was NANASP's ongoing advocacy work, especially regarding federal funding and budgets, health care reform, the new Administration, and older adult malnutrition. **On February 17, 2017**, NANASP Executive Director Bob Blancato and Federal Policy and Advocacy Manager Meredith Ponder Whitmire presented a Washington Update via Webinar on the 2017 Policy Outlook and discussed the new Administration and Congress, and what was currently happening in the world of aging and health policy.

Training & Education

2017 Annual Training Conference

The 2017 Annual Training Conference – and first Joint Conference with the **NCOA’s National Institute of Senior Centers (NISC)** was a fantastic success! A full recap can be found on our website at <https://nanasp.org/past-conference>

A total of **220 attendees** (up 40% from 2016) **in addition to 30, exhibitors** (up 30% from 2016) **and staff** attended the 2017 Conference increasing revenues upwards of 60%.

Of evaluation survey respondents:

- 100% felt the 2017 Joint Conference was very or somewhat useful and relevant; and
- 98% felt the Overall Quality of Joint Conference was excellent/good

During the NANASP Business Meeting on Friday morning, the [the 2017 Resolutions were adopted](#) and Board of Directors officer elections were held.



2018 Annual Training Conference

June 6-8, 2018

Charleston Marriott – Charleston, SC

You’re invited to join us June 6-8, 2018 at the Charleston Marriott in Charleston, SC where we will be “Building Momentum: The Future of Aging Well” at this one-of-a-kind educational event. This Joint Conference is being sponsored by the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP) and the National Council on Aging’s (NCOA) National Institute of Senior Centers (NISC). The Call for Proposals is now closed so look for more information on the schedule of events and all the sessions for nutrition, senior center, and aging services expertise, research, and promising practices in the new year!

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NANASP Advocacy Webpage

In 2017 NANASP continued to use the [Take Action](#) webpage created to assist our members in their advocacy efforts. Highlights of this page include:

- Our Issues – Issues important to NANASP and the older adults we serve
 - Congressional Directory including - Directory; Leaders; Committees; Demographics; & a Guide to Congress.
 - Bills – Listing Key Legislation
 - State Election results including – President; U.S. House; U.S. Senate; State Senate; State House
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Grant Income

NANASP's income from grants continues to grow annually, with another 33% increase in grants received for 2017. These grants help NANASP to do its education work and to give back to our members through direct grants. NANASP wishes to sincerely thank **PhRMA, Abbott, Pfizer, Bristol-Meyers Squibb**, and the **Retirement Research Foundation** for their ongoing support of NANASP, its mission, and the work of its members.

2017 New Year Grants

Since 2013 when sequestration was first imposed, NANASP has provided End of Year Grants to our members who were the hardest hit by cutbacks. These grants have allowed additional meals to be served. Thanks to generous grants of support from our corporate donors including PhRMA, Pfizer and Abbott, we were pleased to extend this program to start 2017 and make them **New Year Grants**. To help us determine how best to distribute these awards to begin the New Year, we sent survey requests open to NANASP Member organizations. The recipients of our 2017 New Year Grants were:

- LRGVDC-Area Agency on Aging
 - Camarillo Health Care District
 - East Prairie Nutrition Center
 - Hillsborough County Aging Services
 - Bismarck Senior Center
 - KRADD
 - East Valley Family Services
 - Senior Life Resources, Mid-Columbia Meals on Wheels
 - Pyramid Lake Human Services
 - First TN Human Resource Agency
 - Community Services Agency of South Texas Inc.
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Retirement Research Foundation Grant Work

With a generous grant from the **Retirement Research Foundation (RRF)**, NANASP embarked on a one-year pilot project to study the value of socialization for older adults who participate in Congregate Nutrition Programs under the Older Americans Act (OAA) and how this contributes to their health and well-being outcomes while potentially saving Medicaid and Medicare funds.

At the beginning of January 2017, we distributed a survey tool for this project that NANASP member sites are disseminating to their staff and participants. **On February 21, 2017**, NANASP hosted a webinar “Beyond the Meal: The Value of Socialization in Older Americans Act Congregate Nutrition Programs” in which we shared the initial results from that survey and help us show the value of the Congregate Nutrition Program in keeping older adults living independently in their communities thanks to the benefits of socialization.

The data collected was used to create our final grant report to the Retirement Research Foundation presented at the 2017 NANASP Conference which can be found here: [Retirement Research Foundation Grant #2016-081 Final Report - July 1, 2016 – August 1, 2017](#)

We are now working on Phase 2 of the project and have collected over 1,200 surveys, with more coming in. We will share the data at the 2018 NANASP-NISC Conference!

NANASP 2017 Medicare Open Enrollment Micro-Grant

NANASP had the opportunity to once again provide state-specific micro-grants to increase awareness about Medicare Open Enrollment. Through grant work from the following NANASP Member organizations we were able to reach almost 13,000 congregate and home delivered participants, over 240,000 thru newsletters and news print, and almost 30,000 thru various social media outlets.

- North Shore Elder Services
- HESSCO
- Greater Lynn Senior Services
- South Coast Business Employment Corp
- Knoxville-Knox County CAC Office on Aging
- Meals on Wheel Kitsap
- Senior Life Resources
- Wallington Community Senior Center
- Homage Senior Services

NANASP Coalition Work

NANASP is part of the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO), the Elder Justice Coalition, the Food Policy Working Group, the Defeat Malnutrition Today coalition, the Better Medicare Alliance, the National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity (NANA), and is a partner of the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging.

The NANASP Board: New Positions, New Members

In 2017, we were pleased to welcome **E. Douglas Beach**, Chief Executive Officer of the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging (WRAAA) in Cleveland, OH and **Jeffrey Klein**, FACHE, President & CEO Nevada Senior Services, Inc. Las Vegas, NV to the Board of Directors.

NANASP is deeply grateful to our outgoing Board member and Past President **Martha Peppones**, who has provided the leadership and guidance which has helped to make NANASP the association it is today. NANASP will always be grateful to Martha for her service to our association. We regretfully accepted **Deborah Cotton's** resignation from the board but recognize and appreciate her contributions to the organization.

NANASP Newsletter

In 2017 NANASP continued to publish an online E-Newsletter, *NANASP News*. 2017 topics included:

- [Financial Fraud Awareness](#)
 - [Alzheimer's](#)
 - [Volunteer Month](#)
 - [Older Americans Month](#)
 - [Mental Health](#)
 - [Immunization Awareness](#)
 - [SNAP & Community Gardens](#)
 - [NANAPS Highlights New Board Members](#)
 - [Medicare Open Enrollment](#)
 - [BEC Grants](#)
 - [Caregivers Month](#)
 - [National Influenza Vaccination](#)
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NANASP Blogs and Articles

Executive Director Bob Blancato has been published multiple times on The Hill, the Huffington Post and Next Avenue in 2017. Here is a sampling of his posts and articles:

- [Trump's cuts to nutrition programs will put older adults at risk](#)
- [Malnutrition and Minority Older Adults: A Health Equity Issue](#)
- [Men: Eat Well for a Reason!](#)
- [For Older Americans Month, Let's Rethink Policies on Aging](#)
- [Seniors suffer the most after natural disasters](#)
- [Large Number of Aging Veterans Are Malnourished](#)
- [4 Reasons Why We Must #SaveLunch for Older Adults](#)
- [Older Adults Will Suffer Under Proposed Senate Health Bill](#)
- [IPAB: Another End of Year Gift for Older Adults?](#)
- [Why Meals on Wheels Should Actually Thank Trump and His Budget Director](#)

NANASP Presentations

NANASP has been across the country this year giving presentations about nutrition issues. Here are just some of the conferences and events NANASP has attended this year:

- American Society on Aging's Aging in America conference
 - NY State Aging Services Conference
 - New England Nutrition Conference
 - IAGG World Congress
 - Michigan Senior Services Conference
 - Massachusetts Councils on Aging Fall Conference
 - Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' FNCE (Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo)
 - Northern Arizona Council of Governments AAA Conference
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Social Media



989 Page Likes/976 Followers
43 Posts in 2017
Reaching 20,766



593 Twitter followers
47 Tweets in 2017
Received over 28,300 views/likes/retweets