

The first of three fall meetings in 2019 of the OFA Advisory Council was held on 20 September at the Human Services Building, 2nd floor Conference room, at 325 Columbia Street. The meeting was opened at 1:05 P.M.

Guest speaker, Rebecca Brodeur of the US Census/NY, gave a comprehensive presentation on the US census process and the importance of it. She offered to send us a copy of her presentation that was very informative. There are opportunities for us to become involved in the census by motivating and by helping seniors to understand the census bureau questions. Rebecca told us that 19% of Hudson's population do not respond to the census survey.

Joyce Thompson reported on **Safe at Home** presentations she has given to Town Boards in Gallatin, Claverack and Austerlitz. Vice-President Joyce Lapenn presented the same material to the Canaan Town Board. In each town the OFA Representative and local residents got the word out, the room was well filled and there were good questions. For example, in Gallatin and Austerlitz approximately 20 residents attended. The thrust of Joyce's presentation was to raise awareness among members of town government and senior residents of the serious increase in senior population and related service needs. With raised awareness, the two groups could work together to meet those needs. Local services and local referral sources are most important. Joyce suggested that we think of existing groups of seniors in our towns that might be interested in a guest speaker to spread the word about what we need to do to age in place.

OFA Administrator, Kevin McDonald, reported that 200 seniors attended the Seniors Day picnic. A great turnout considering the cold rainy day!

NY Connects

Open Enrollment season is soon upon us and Kelly McGiffert urges everyone to spread the word that NY Connects stands ready to help navigate changes in healthcare plans.

There are two separate periods for Open Enrollment:

Medicare Advantage	October 15, 2019 - December 7, 2019
No Medicare - NY State of Health	November 1, 2019 - January 31, 2020

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Thompson
Taghkanic Representative to OFA/AC