

## SNAPS GUEST SPEAKER

Following are details concerning the speaker at our SNAPS Support Group meeting:

Speaker: Sean Retke Date: 10/19/13  
Title: President & Owner  
Organization: Cornerstone Benefits & Insurance  
Subject: Medicare Insurance Needs

### Notes

He is the president and owner of Cornerstone Benefits & Insurance ([seanr@cornerstoneinsnv.com](mailto:seanr@cornerstoneinsnv.com)) or 702/499-1450). Sean will be happy to meet with you in your home.

His topic was getting prepared for both Medicare's health insurance open enrollment (October 15 - December 7) and the upcoming Affordable Health Care for America Act.

If you are already receiving your health-care needs through Medicare, Medicaid or the VA, you need not worry about getting additional insurance through the Affordable Health Care Act as you will still be covered through your other plans. If you don't have medical insurance or you're waiting for your Medicare medical benefits to start (usually two years from the date you signed up), you'll need to get health insurance through the Affordable Health Care Act by January 1.

Sean encourages everyone to review their health care plan annually just in case changes have taken place that you may not be aware of. Make a list of the services you're sold on and those that aren't all that important to you. If it's imperative that you keep your doctor(s), remember that each year, doctors may move from plan to plan. Also, the drugs that you take may be offered with your current provider this year but may not be next year. In fact, some drugs aren't available with some providers and most the time, costs change and/or vary from plan to plan.

Some plans provide basic dental care such as cleanings but if you need fillings, crowns, etc. you'd have to upgrade to a bigger plan at a higher premium. If you are experiencing renal failure, it is best you contact your local SHIP (State Health Insurance Assistance Program) because it can be very complex. Nevada's SHIP can be reached at 702/486-3478. If you are a tobacco user, expect your premiums to be higher.

As you may know, if we don't have insurance next year, we will be fined 1% of our income for 2014, 2% for 2015 and 2 1/2% for 2016. For example, if you earn \$40,000 a year, your fine for not having health insurance in 2014 would be \$400, in 2015 it would be \$800 and in 2016 it would be \$1,000. The IRS has recently hired 10,000 agents to enforce the Act.

For those of us who aren't insured and make between \$0 and \$45,960 we qualify for assistance through the advantage tax credit. There is also a cost-sharing reduction plan paid by the government you can check out. Some work places have weight-loss incentives and may pay your membership to a gym or award you with a check. If you are between the ages of 52 and 64, you will receive a decrease in premiums.

There is a difference between straight Medicare, a Medicare supplement or a Medicare Advantage plan. A PPO plan has more flexibility than a HMO and if you're waiting for your Medicare insurance to kick in, start looking for insurance coverage three months before in order to check out your options.

Website(s): http://www.cornerstoneinsnv.com

#### Materials available at meeting

- Business Cards       Brouchures/Booklets       Flyers  
 Other:

#### Contact Information

Email: [seanr@cornerstoneinsnv.com](mailto:seanr@cornerstoneinsnv.com)

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