

# THE PATH AHEAD

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 3

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tmg

Let's clear the path ahead.

[tmgwisconsin.com](http://tmgwisconsin.com)



## A NEW LOOK AND NEW INFORMATION

You've probably noticed that this issue of The Path Ahead looks and reads a little differently from past issues. Our goal at the TMG IRIS Consultant Agency (ICA) is to provide you with current and helpful information.

We hope you like this fresh approach to your newsletter! As always, we welcome your feedback at [www.tmgwisconsin.com](http://www.tmgwisconsin.com).

Your next issue will arrive in your mailbox just before year's end!

## MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT, 10/15 - 12/7

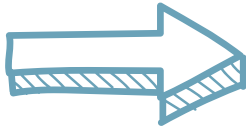
Wisconsin has a great resource for people seeking support in navigating Medicare, and it is called SHIP or State Health Insurance Assistance Program. SHIP provides local resources to answer Medicare questions. People enrolled in Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D must renew between October 15 and December 7. Individuals can find help with their questions by visiting their local Aging Disability Resource Center or calling:

- Wisconsin Medigap Helpline 1-800-242-1060
- Medicare Part D and Prescription Drug Helpline (60 and older) 1-855-677-2783
- Part D Disability Drug Benefit Helpline (under 60) 1-800-926-4862
- Wisconsin Judicare - Indian Law Office 1-800-472-1638
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Benefit Specialist 1-262-347-3045
- GWAAR Medicare Trainer and Counselor 1-877-333-0202 ext. 15

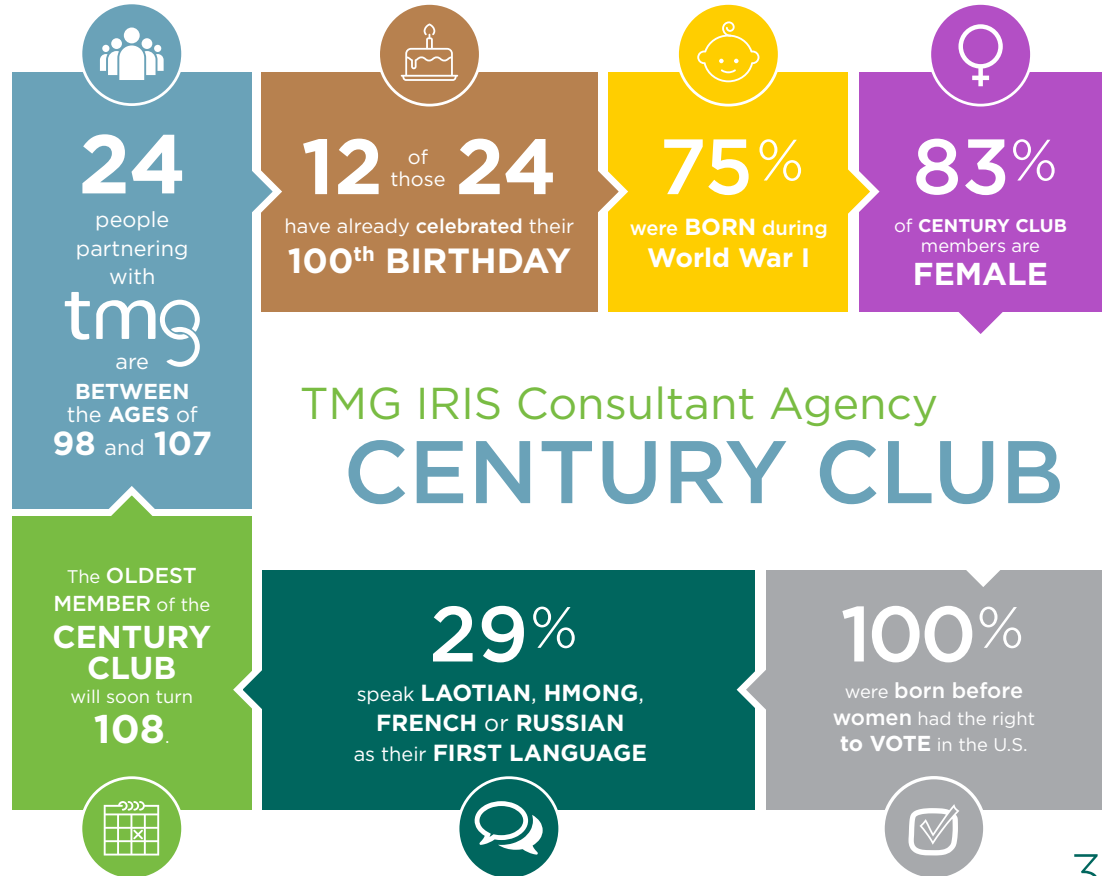
Medicare is the federal health insurance program for people who are 65 or older, younger people with disabilities and people with End-Stage Renal Disease (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a transplant, sometimes called ESRD). For more information, visit: [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

# IRIS CENTURY CLUB

TMG's IRIS Consultant Agency partners with 13,000 older adults and people with disabilities in 65 Wisconsin counties. You might be surprised to learn that two dozen individuals are nearing or have passed their 100th birthday! Congratulations to each of them!



The TMG ICA Century Club confirms the recent Kaiser Health Study that there are benefits for people who are aging to remain in control of their supports. Self-direction not only helps you live a better life, but a longer life as well! Interested in the Kaiser Health News article? Learn more at [www.tmgwisconsin.com](http://www.tmgwisconsin.com) on the "Partner Links" page.



## TMG IRIS Consultant Agency CENTURY CLUB



## Q&A: THE UPCOMING ELECTION AND YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE

*The following information was current as of the printing date of this issue of The Path Ahead. We encourage readers to track the most current information about Wisconsin voting laws at [www.bringitwisconsin.com](http://www.bringitwisconsin.com), [www.myvote.wi.gov](http://www.myvote.wi.gov), or by contacting their local clerk's office.*

### WHEN IS THE ELECTION?

Tuesday, November 8 is Election Day for federal, state and local offices. Polls in Wisconsin open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.

### WHO IS ON THE BALLOT?

Ballots are different depending on where you live in Wisconsin. To find out who's on the ballot in your area, visit [www.myvote.wi.gov](http://www.myvote.wi.gov) or call the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-362-9472.

### HOW DO I KNOW IF I'M REGISTERED TO VOTE?

If you voted in the 2012 election (or later) and have not moved since then, your registration is still valid. You can also visit [www.myvote.wi.gov](http://www.myvote.wi.gov) to check your registration status, or contact your county clerk's office. If you need to register, go to your city, town or village clerk's office before 5 p.m. on Friday, November 4. You can also register and vote on Election Day. To register on Election Day, you'll need to provide proof of residence at your polling place.

### DO I NEED AN ID CARD TO VOTE?

Yes. With very few exceptions, all voters will be required to show a valid photo ID at their polling place.

You can get a photo ID at your local Department of Motor Vehicles office. Should you have questions about this process, contact the DMV Hotline at 608-266-1069.

# Q&A

## HOW CAN I VOTE ABSENTEE?

You can request an absentee voting ballot from your municipal clerk's office. To learn how, contact your clerk's office or visit [www.myvote.wi.gov](http://www.myvote.wi.gov) and click on "Vote Absentee."

## WHAT IF I HAVE A DISABILITY THAT MAKES IT HARD TO GET TO THE VOTING BOOTH?

All Wisconsin polling places are required to provide accessible voting accommodations. If you need assistance, or would like to take advantage of "curbside voting" without leaving your car, contact your municipal clerk's office prior to Election Day.

## WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IF I HAVE A QUESTION OR COMPLAINT?

If you are unable to resolve an issue with your local clerk, contact the Wisconsin Election and Ethics Commission at 1-866-868-3947.

## TMG IS PRESENTING AT THESE EVENTS



### OCTOBER 19

65th Annual Fall Convention WI Health Care Association/WI Coalition of Assisted Living Annual Conference

Radisson Hotel Green Bay, WI

[www.whcawical.org/about-whca/continuing-education](http://www.whcawical.org/about-whca/continuing-education)

[www.whcawical.org/files/2016/08/2016-WHCA-WiCAL-Fall-Convention-Online-Brochure.pdf](http://www.whcawical.org/files/2016/08/2016-WHCA-WiCAL-Fall-Convention-Online-Brochure.pdf)



### NOVEMBER 3

Across the Lifespan

Glacier Canyon Lodge, Wisconsin Dells, WI

[www.atacrosslifespan.org](http://www.atacrosslifespan.org)



### NOVEMBER 8

WI Self-Determination Conference: Count Me In

Kalahari Resort Wisconsin Dells, WI

[www.wi-bpdd.org/sdc/index.cfm](http://www.wi-bpdd.org/sdc/index.cfm)



### NOVEMBER 29

TASH National Conference: Gateway to Equity

St. Louis, MI

[www.2016tashconference.sched.org/info](http://www.2016tashconference.sched.org/info)

# VINCENT LARA'S STORY OF SELF-DIRECTION

**Thank you, Vincent, for sharing your story.** If you would like to tell us about how TMG and IRIS has helped you clear the path ahead, visit [www.tmgwisconsin.com](http://www.tmgwisconsin.com) and click **“Share Your Story”**.

As a child growing up on a small dairy farm in rural Illinois, Vincent had a unique dream of one day becoming an auctioneer.

Now 32 years old, Vincent has spent decades continuing to work in the industry he loves. He spends his days milking cows, loading calves and helping with heifers on a small farm in Vernon County, Wisconsin.

**“I’m so happy I’m able to work at a job I like,”** said Vincent. As an adult living with autism, Vincent explains that he has an excellent support system that helps him meet challenges at work and in his personal life.

Vincent’s team of supports is made up of many important individuals, including his therapist, Paul, and his TMG IRIS Consultant, Joyce. Together they partner with Vincent, providing the assistance he needs to work toward his goals.

**“We make a great team! Joyce, Paul, my friend, William, my stepdad, Jim and my supports at home, all help me achieve my goals of employment and independence,”** said Vincent.

Vincent’s supports work together to provide a variety of services, including meal planning and preparation, medication management, and nutrition and dietary advice. They all help Vincent lead an active life in the community.



**“We love going to festivals and community gatherings. We especially like camping,”** said Vincent. **“We catch fish, joke around, swim and eat great meals off the campfire.”**

Vincent explains that his relationships with all his supports, provide him with the stability needed to make his life what he wants it to be.

Currently, Vincent is working toward fulfilling his childhood dream of becoming an auctioneer. He has studied for the license, purchased auctioneer equipment and has even gained experience as an auctioneer for several local fundraisers.

Vincent is an excellent example of how self-direction can make life meaningful and rewarding. **“I love that through TMG and the IRIS program I can direct my life and manage my supports,”** said Vincent, **“and the good relationships I have with my caregivers, coworkers and the community are very important to me.”**

# WELCOME LINDA SEEMEYER

TMG welcomes newly appointed Department of Health Services (DHS) Secretary, Linda Seemeyer. Her past experience and expertise in local and state government, and especially with community-based services, will be a great asset in her new role, which began on August 22. She was the Director of Walworth County's Department of Health and Human Services from 2007 to 2015. She also served as Milwaukee County's Director of Administrative Services from 2002 to 2007. Ms. Seemeyer worked for the State Department of Administration from 1991 to 2002 in various capacities including Deputy Secretary.



We look forward to working with Secretary Seemeyer to strengthen quality-driven self-directed services and supports so individuals can achieve their goals and have valued roles in their communities.

## WHAT IS A FUNCTIONAL SCREEN (AND WHY DO I NEED ONE)?

The Functional Screen is a tool developed by the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services and used for all long-term care programs. Each year, people enrolled in IRIS are required to have a Long-Term Care Functional Screen in order to collect information about their health and determine if they still have a need for a program like IRIS. Even if nothing has changed since the last screen, the Department's IRIS program rules say that a Certified Screening Specialist still needs to meet with you to complete a new screen.

A Certified Screening Specialist, who is a coworker of your TMG IRIS Consultant, conducts the assessment in your home. You'll receive a letter in the mail a month before your screen is scheduled. That letter includes instructions for how you can prepare for the meeting and will let you know what to expect when you have your next screen.





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## WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

At the TMG IRIS Consultant Agency (ICA), we value the fact that our employees live and work in communities all around Wisconsin. Our Area Associate Directors provide local leadership for our IRIS Consultant Teams throughout the state. If you have questions about TMG and the services we provide, please visit the TMG website at [www.tmgwisconsin.com](http://www.tmgwisconsin.com) for more information.



Questions about IRIS,  
call: **1-800-223-6048**



For information about TMG  
IRIS Consultant Agency, visit:  
[www.tmgwisconsin.com](http://www.tmgwisconsin.com)