



A newsletter for beneficiaries of the Adventist Retirement Plans

**Payroll Bulletin Board:** Checks/EFT Released this month: October 26; next month: November 27

## Notice:

We are required by federal law to provide this notice to all S.H.A.R.P. participants. If you are not eligible to participate in our healthcare assistance plan known as S.H.A.R.P., or are not currently enrolled in S.H.A.R.P.'s Rx Option, this notice is not relevant to you unless you are approaching Medicare enrollment eligibility. We apologize for losing more of our newsletter space this month to the federal government!

**Important Notice from S.H.A.R.P.  
About S.H.A.R.P.'s Prescription Drug Coverage  
(Rx Option) and the Medicare Prescription Drug  
Coverage**

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about the prescription drug coverage with Supplemental Healthcare, Adventist Retirement Plan (S.H.A.R.P.) Rx Option<sup>1</sup> and about your options under Medicare's prescription drug coverage. This information can help you decide whether or not you want to join a Medicare drug plan. Information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage is provided at the end of this notice.

1. Medicare prescription drug coverage became available in 2006 to everyone with Medicare. You can get this coverage if you join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan or join a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO) that offers prescription drug coverage. This coverage is sometimes referred to as Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage. In general Medicare Part D provides coverage for prescription drugs not covered under

Medicare Part A and Part B. All Medicare prescription drug plans provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare. Some Medicare plans may also offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.

2. The Supplemental Healthcare, Adventist Retirement Plan has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered under its Rx Option is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays and is considered Creditable Coverage under Medicare.

Because your prescription drug coverage under S.H.A.R.P.'s Rx Option is, on average, at least as good as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage, you can keep (or enroll in) S.H.A.R.P.'s Rx Option coverage (instead of enrolling in a Medicare prescription drug plan) and not pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you later decide to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan.

You can join a Medicare prescription drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare and each year thereafter from November 15<sup>th</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. This may mean that you may have to wait to join a Medicare drug plan and that you may pay a higher pre-

### NEWSLETTER

<b>S.H.A.R.P.</b>	<b>Pages 1 - 4</b>
<b>NAD Retirement</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>Steve Gifford</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>Sad News</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>Inside Scoop</b>	<b>Page 6</b>

## S.H.A.R.P....cont'd from page 1)

mium (a penalty) if you join later. You may pay that higher premium (a penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. However, if you lose creditable prescription drug coverage, through no fault of your own, you will be eligible for a sixty (60) day Special Enrollment Period (SEP) because you lost creditable coverage to join a Part D plan. In addition, if you lose or decide to leave your Rx Option coverage, you will be eligible to join a Part D plan at that time using an Employer Group Special Enrollment Period. You should compare your current coverage, including which drugs are covered at what cost, with the coverage and costs of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area.

**If you do decide to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan and drop (or decline to enroll in) S.H.A.R.P. Rx Option coverage, be aware that you will not be able to get the S.H.A.R.P. Rx Option coverage back unless and until the next open enrollment period occurs for you under S.H.A.R.P. that allows you to add coverage. There are very few open enrollment periods under S.H.A.R.P., and you may not be eligible for one.**

Under S.H.A.R.P., you are not allowed to receive prescription drug coverage under both Medicare prescription drug coverage and the S.H.A.R.P. Rx Option. You must choose one or the other. Therefore, it is important to make an informed deliberate decision. Do not enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage “just in case.”

You have the following two options concerning prescription drug coverage in the S.H.A.R.P.:

1. You may stay with S.H.A.R.P.'s Rx Option coverage and not enroll in the Medicare prescription drug coverage at this time. You will be able to enroll in the Medicare prescription drug coverage at a later date without penalty, either (1) during a Medicare prescription drug open enrollment period; or (2) if you lose coverage under S.H.A.R.P.
2. You may drop your S.H.A.R.P.'s Rx Option coverage (when allowed to do so under

S.H.A.R.P.), or decline to enroll in the Rx Option, and instead enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage. If and when you enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan, you become ineligible to participate in S.H.A.R.P.'s Rx Option, and S.H.A.R.P. will not assist you with the premium you will pay to participate in a Medicare prescription drug plan. You will not be able to enroll or reenroll in S.H.A.R.P.'s Rx Option coverage until the next open enrollment period for such coverage, and you will only be able to enroll or reenroll if you drop your Medicare prescription drug coverage. **If you do decide to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan and decline or drop S.H.A.R.P. Rx Option prescription drug coverage, be aware that you may not be able to get S.H.A.R.P. Rx Option drug coverage until the next open enrollment period.** If you have chosen not to participate in the S.H.A.R.P. Rx Option, you may continue to participate in other S.H.A.R.P. options provided, such as Dental/Vision/Hearing and Medicare Extension.

**If you have questions, please contact us for more information about what happens to your coverage under the Rx Option if you enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan.**

The standard Medicare prescription drug plan has the following features. The threshold amounts are subject to annual adjustments by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The thresholds for 2007 are shown below, with the thresholds for 2008 shown in parentheses.

- Annual Deductible of \$265 (\$275 for 2008).
- After you have met the annual deductible, Medicare pays 75% of the next \$2,135 (\$2,235 for 2008) and you will be responsible for paying 25% coinsurance.
- After you have incurred \$2,400 (\$2,510 for 2008) in prescription drug costs, Medicare will pay nothing and you will pay 100% until your prescription costs for the year reach \$5,451.25 (\$5,726.25 for 2008), at which point you will

(Continued on page 3)

**(S.H.A.R.P. cont'd from page 2)**

be out of pocket \$3850.00 (\$4,050 for 2008). This gap in Medicare coverage is referred to as the “donut hole.”

- After you have reached the \$5,451.25 (\$5,726.25 for 2008) threshold, Medicare pays approximately 95% of your costs for drugs and you pay 5%.
- Premiums are expected to be approximately \$30-\$50 per month for standard Medicare prescription drug plans. You should consult the Medicare prescription drug plans in your area for the exact premium amounts.

In making this comparison, please also consider the following: (1) Rx Option has no gap in coverage similar to Medicare’s “donut hole”; (2) Rx Option provides prescription drugs on the plan’s formulary in 2007 by you paying a co-pay of \$10 (generic) or \$20 (brand name) for a 30-day supply and a co-pay of \$20 (generic) or \$40 (brand name) for a 90-day supply; in 2008 the co-pays will increase to \$11 (generic) or \$22 (brand name) for a 30-day supply and a co-pay of \$22.50 (generic) or \$45 (brand name) for a 90-day supply; (3) many retirees receive an Earned Credit which assists them or fully pays for their S.H.A.R.P. Rx Option costs; and (4) the formulary used by the Medicare prescription drug plan may differ from the formulary for the Rx Option.

As stated above, if you enroll in a Medicare prescription drug, S.H.A.R.P. will drop your Rx Option (or not allow you to enroll in the Rx Option) and will not assist you with the premium you will pay to participate in a Medicare prescription drug plan. Although S.H.A.R.P. cannot state that in all cases its Rx Option prescription drug coverage is more advantageous than Medicare prescription drug coverage, in most cases you will have better prescription drug coverage under S.H.A.R.P. Rx Option than under Medicare prescription drug coverage and you will not benefit from enrolling in Medicare prescription drug coverage. One situation in which Medicare Prescription drug coverage may be more advantageous is if you qualify as a low-income retiree. If you have received an application to apply for low-income Medicare prescription drug coverage, you should carefully review our plan and Medicare Prescription drug coverage and judge for yourself.

erage with S.H.A.R.P.’s Rx Option, and don’t enroll in Medicare prescription drug plan within 63 continuous days after your current coverage ends, you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) to join a Medicare prescription drug plan later.

If you go 63 days or longer without prescription drug coverage that’s at least as good as Medicare’s prescription drug coverage, your monthly premium for Medicare prescription drug coverage may go up at least 1% per month of the base beneficiary premium per month for every month that you did not have that coverage. For example, if you go nineteen months without coverage, your premium may consistently be at least 19% higher than the base beneficiary premium. You may have to pay this higher premium (a penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the next November to enroll.

**For more information about this notice or your current prescription drug coverage...**

Read the S.H.A.R.P. booklet carefully. A current booklet can be downloaded from [www.nadadventist.org/ret/](http://www.nadadventist.org/ret/) or ordered by contacting our office. Then, for further questions, contact our office (email and phone listed below) for further information regarding S.H.A.R.P. Rx Option. However, please note that our office cannot assist you with information about a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan.

E-mail: [SHARP@nad.adventist.org](mailto:SHARP@nad.adventist.org) (preferred method).  
S.H.A.R.P. Healthcare Enrollment line: (301) 680-5036  
9-5 Monday-Thursday and 9-12 Fridays, Eastern Time.

NOTE: You will receive this notice every year. You will also get it before the next period you can join a Medicare drug plan, and if the S.H.A.R.P. Rx Option coverage changes. You also may request a copy.

**For more information about your options under Medicare prescription drug coverage...**

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is available in the “Medicare & You” handbook. You’ll get a copy of the handbook every year in the mail from Medicare. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare prescription drug plans.

(Continued on Page 4)

(S.H.A.R.P.)...cont'd from page 3)

For more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage:

- Visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see the inside back cover of your copy of the “Medicare & You” handbook for their telephone number) for personalized help.
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

For people with limited income and resources, extra help paying for a Medicare prescription drug plan is available. For more information about this extra help, visit Social Security on the web at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov), or call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

**Remember: Keep this Creditable Coverage notice. If you decide to join one of the Medicare drug plans, you may be required to provide a copy of this notice when you join to show whether or not you have maintained creditable coverage and whether or not you are required to pay a higher premium amount.**

Date: October 1, 2007

Name of Entity/Sender: Supplemental Healthcare, Adventist Retirement Plan

Contact—Position/Office: Administrator

Address: 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring MD 20904

Phone Number: 301-680-5036

#### (Footnotes)

<sup>1</sup> S.H.A.R.P.’s Rx Option is the only coverage available to participants in S.H.A.R.P. that offers prescription drug coverage to persons eligible for Medicare.



## Adventist Retirement Plans

Del Johnson  
*Administrator*

Lyn Wick  
*Associate Administrator*  
Judy Glass  
*Associate Administrator*

Send comments and suggestions to:  
Dolores Allen, Editor  
*Reflections*  
12501 Old Columbia Pike  
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600  
Email: [dolores.allen@nad.adventist.org](mailto:dolores.allen@nad.adventist.org)  
Website <http://www.nadadventist.org/ret>

ARM: 1-800-447-5002  
*Healthcare Claims Queries*

SHARP: 301-680-5036  
[SHARP@nad.adventist.org](mailto:SHARP@nad.adventist.org)  
*Healthcare Eligibility Queries*

Submit all claims to:  
Adventist Risk Management - SHARP  
PO Box 4088  
Silver Spring, MD 20914-4088

Medco Health: 1-800-841-5396  
*Verify pharmacy participation with  
Medco Health*

Steve Gifford  
*President, NAD Retirees Association*  
817-271-1160  
2712 Dorothy Drive  
Cleburne, TX 76031  
Email: [LFORD99@aol.com](mailto:LFORD99@aol.com)

Payroll: 1-888-838-8955  
*Bulletin Board of Payroll Information*

NAD Retirement Department  
Fax: 301-680-6190

Barbara Yowell: 301-680-6244  
*Lost checks, direct deposits, 1099R,  
Tax withholding, Change of Address,  
Verification of Benefits for loans, Hous-  
ing, Medicaid*

Dolores Allen: 301-680-6249  
*General Retirement Office Information*

Chris Meier: 301-680-6192  
*Reporting a Death, Disability Reviews*

Diane B. Gatling: 301-680-6289  
*Tuition Assistance for Children*



## President's Corner

by Stephen Gifford

Lawrence Scales became president of Southwestern Junior College in Keene, Texas, for the 1958-59 school year, the same year I came as a student. The new president was impressive, kind, fair, and considerate. Every student respected him. Then my second year, tragedy struck.

Some of the boys challenged the new dean, and the dean seemed powerless to stop it. Word spread that there was going to be a riot in the dormitory. The gossip became reality one night when someone grabbed my master key, turned off the dormitory lights, and the heavy room doors began slamming, one after another. Firecrackers exploded, bricks and other objects of force erupted into the hallway, students were hurt, and the entire situation spun out of control.

Suddenly Elder Scales appeared at the main entrance, spotted me, and said "Call everybody to the worship room." The microphone was somehow still working, so I made the call that Elder Scales wanted everyone in the worship room. The riot immediately stopped, and we all waited to see what the great man would say.

"Boys, I'm ashamed of you," he began. I'm going to ask God to forgive you, and then I want you to go to your rooms and go to sleep." Elder Scales prayed a sincere, earnest prayer.. Afterward, Jim Gilley and I waited with Elder Scales, and he said, "I'm too weak to walk home. Would you boys carry me?" He had cancer, and had abandoned his sick-bed to stop the riot. Jim and I made a chair out of our arms, and carried him home. What lessons can we learn? First, that authority is earned. Second, any trial we receive

prepares us for greater service. Elder Scales will always be my hero - and that night in the dormitory will be the best leadership lesson I ever learned.

Cordially,  
Steve Gifford



## SAD NEWS

We regret the passing of Elder Robert Osborn, who for many years served as Associate Treasurer of the General Conference, passed away after a quick bout with pneumonia. Elder Osborn is the father of Dick Osborn—President of Pacific Union College, and Ken Osborn—Associate Treasurer of the NAD. A Memorial Service was held on Thursday, August 30, 2007, at 11:00 a.m., at the Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church, 7700 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912. Sligo has been Elder Osborn's church home for over 40 years. Cards and condolences can be sent to:

Mrs. Evelyn Osborn  
806 Jackson Avenue  
Takoma Park, MD 20912

Felicita Castillo, mother of Elder Ernie Castillo-Vice President of the NAD, passed away on August 16, 2007, in Sacramento, California. She was 86. Services were held on August 24, 2007 at the Montecito Memorial Park, 3520 East Washington Street, Colton, CA 92324.

Justin S. King, father of Elder Don King-President of the Atlantic Union Conference, passed away in Jamaica the same week-end that Don was performing the wedding of his own son in Sligo Church. Services were held on September 2, 2007 at the Port Antonio Adventist Church in Port Antonio, Portland, Jamaica.



## Inside Scoop



**\*\* CHURCH MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SHOW NET 2007 IN THEIR HOMES,** so please pass this information on to them as soon as possible. Contact: [www.heartquest.info/host](http://www.heartquest.info/host)

**\*\* GC SESSION, 2010 MUSIC GUIDELINES** applications, and additional information are now online. Contact: <http://www.gcsession.org/music/index.html>.

**\*\* "HEARTQUEST WITH MIKE TUCKER,** - October 19 - November 3, especially for postmoderns, broadcasts live on

HopeTV and on the Internet at [www.hopetv.org](http://www.hopetv.org). Later it will be available on the Adventist Channel. Register at [www.HeartQuest.info/](http://www.HeartQuest.info/)

**NEW! ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL QUARTERLY ON AUDIO CD,** beginning with the 4th quarter, 2007. Each quarter will include five discs that follow the weekly lessons, narrated by Bert Williams from Christian Record Services, and will include texts from the New King James Bible. Now you can study the lessons while commuting, working out, or other activities. Contact: Your local Adventist Book Center® or online at [www.AdventistBookCenter.com](http://www.AdventistBookCenter.com). Cost: US\$19.99/quarter. Churches can add the audio Sabbath School Study Guide to their standing order for US\$14.95 per quarter. Yearly

subscriptions are US\$60.80. Add US\$4.00 in additional shipping per subscription outside North America. Contact: Warren Riter at [warrit@pacificpress.com](mailto:warrit@pacificpress.com) for more information.

**\*\* 34,636 BAPTISMS SO FAR - It Is Written's (IIW) Spanish Esta Escrito telecast speaker, Pastor Robert Costa,** just returned from conducting 84 meetings in five weeks all across Peru (in conjunction with the Peru unions), and so far 34,636 people have been baptized! "Peru has really perfected the art of the small group Bible study," says Michele Stotz, PR Director for IIW, "and these meetings capped off the efforts of pastors and members across the country and led people into decisions for Christ."