AARP OK once again successfully advocated for the most vulnerable in our state. Legislative victories include the passage of HB 1357, the Oklahoma Caregiver Support Act, which directs the Aging Services Division to work with caregiver community groups to expand services for family caregivers. AARP also helped defeat HB 1551 which would have removed the four-year degree requirement for long-term care facilities administrators and defeated passage of HB 1913, which would have created a new payday-style loan with an annual percentage rate of more than 200 percent.

AARP OK continues to be the leading voice for consumers in our state. We vigorously opposed OG&E’s proposed $92.5 million utility rate hike and, ultimately, only an $8 million increase was granted. Additionally, OG&E must refund, with interest, the $69.5 million in interim rates charged to customers since July 2016. Oklahomans took action by placing hundreds of calls and sending 1,500 letters to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission. Additionally, 4,500 individuals participated in a teletown hall educating them about the OG&E rate hike proposal. AARP OK also fought a proposed 30 percent rate increase for Empire Electric residential customers in northeastern Oklahoma. Thanks to volunteer advocacy efforts, the Corporation Commission denied a majority of the requested increase. AARP OK is currently intervening in PSO’s unjustified $170 million utility rate hike proposal which, if approved, would increase residential bills $168 per year. With your support, AARP OK will continue to fight for reliable and affordable service for utility service customers.

Supporting Family Caregivers

Oklahoma is the first state in the nation to pass the CARE Act (Care, Advise, Record and Enable), which gives family caregivers new rights and better support. Our work continues with an emphasis on the advancement of telemedicine, expanding the role of nurse practitioners and on meaningful, long-term care reform legislation. Caregiving education, outreach, and resources help people stay in their homes to receive care.

- 524,000 family caregivers
- Family caregivers provided 488 million hours of unpaid care
- Family caregiving impact valued at $6 billion annually
- 4 in 10 AARP OK members are family caregivers
- 77 volunteers lobbied on behalf of family caregivers at the legislative breakfast
Native American Outreach

10th Annual Preparing for the 7th Generation Conference
Southern Plains Tribal Health Board Public Health Conference
National Indian Council on Aging Conference
Native American Journalist Association
Association of American Indian Physicians

900 attended 9th Annual AARP Oklahoma Indian Elders Honors
50 elders honored from Oklahoma Tribal Nations

Fraud Watch Network 20 OK Fraud Fighters volunteers | 1,542 individuals signed up for Fraud Watch Network | 32 Senior Fraud Conferences | 29,750 pounds of sensitive documents shredded at Operation Stop Scams events in Shawnee, Oklahoma City and Tulsa

Tax-Aide 318 Oklahoma AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers | 27,598 Oklahoma seniors assisted in filing their federal and state tax returns | Refunds totaled $15.6 million | Earned Income Tax Credit of more than $3.5 million | 32 Tax-Aide sites located across OK

Driver Safety 1,900+ Oklahomans participated in 175 Driver Safety classes throughout the state taught by 40 AARP volunteers

Livable Communities 20 Livable Communities activities | 72 HomeFit presentations | 14 Small Business Administration Encore Entrepreneur workshops | AARP OK partnership with Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, Avedis Foundation, Gordon Cooper Technology Center and Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service enabled The Community Market of Pottawatomie County to provide food and vital community resources for 42,000 Oklahomans | AARP Community Builder grant awarded to the City of Shawnee to fund a new traffic circle

Tulsa was one of five cities selected to participate in the 2017 Caregiving Pilot program. Throughout the year, AARP OK increased its footprint in the Tulsa community with a high-profile media partnership, extensive community engagements and numerous events. Caregiving resources and education were also integrated into Fraud Watch Network and HomeFit presentations.

- 900 attended AARP OK’s #IHeartCaregivers Week events in Tulsa
- 150 learned about personal and cyber safety issues deemed important to family caregivers
- 17,430 people reached at the 2017 Sandwich Generation conference with keynote comments presented by Amy Goyer, AARP national family and caregiving expert
- 48 caregiving-focused events and activities held in Tulsa and across Oklahoma

Supporting Our Veterans

AARP OK understands the needs of veterans, and recognizes that veterans and their families often face a unique set of considerations and challenges as they age and retire. AARP OK proudly presented Skiatook VFW with a $10,000 donation to help replace their van which was totaled in an August tornado. Skiatook VFW’s Honor Guard members use the van to travel to veterans’ funerals throughout Oklahoma for honorary rifle salutes and flag presentations.