



# PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

ADVOCACY & SERVICES SINCE 1995

The Network  
News  
2016  
September Issue  
#195

OREGON HIV/AIDS CASE MANAGEMENT

Thank you to our AIDS Walk team & our donors!!  
We raised \$3231 for both Partnership and CAP!!



**Next Meeting**

October 11th  
800 NE Oregon, Rm  
1D

**LGBTQ Veterans  
Services**

Nathaniel Boehme  
Statewide Veteran  
Services LGBTQ  
Veterans  
Coordinator-OHA



## RECOGNIZING LGBT HISTORY MONTH

By Alan Edwards, Social Security Public Affairs



Social Security is committed to treating all Americans fairly. This commitment extends to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people covered by Social Security's many programs.

October is also National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) History Month. It's a month-long annual observance of the history of the gay rights movement. First observed in 1994 to coincide with National Coming Out Day, the month has evolved to include a more diverse range of people identifying as LGBT.

On June 26, 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, holding that same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marry in all states and have their marriages recognized in all states. This decision made it possible for more same-sex couples and their families to benefit from Social Security.

We now recognize same-sex couples' marriages in all states, and some non-marital legal relationships, for purposes of determining entitlement to Social Security benefits, Medicare entitlement, and eligibility and payment amount for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). We also recognize same-sex marriages and some non-marital legal relationships established in foreign jurisdictions for purposes of determining entitlement to Social Security benefits, Medicare entitlement, and SSI eligibility.

We encourage anyone who is unsure whether they are entitled or eligible for Social Security to apply right away for benefits. Applying now will protect against the loss of any potential benefits.

If you have any questions about how to apply for benefits, call toll-free 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). We can answer specific questions from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Generally, you'll have a shorter wait time if you call during the week after Tuesday. We treat all calls confidentially.

Visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/people/same-sex-couples](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/people/same-sex-couples) to apply for benefits and learn more about our policies for same-sex couples.

## PROVIDING DISABILITY BENEFITS FOR 60 YEARS

By Alan Edwards, Social Security Public Affairs



August 1, 2016, marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program, signed into law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956. Originally, the program was limited to individuals who were age 50 or older. It also had a six-month waiting period, and there were no benefits payable to spouses or children.

The disability program has undergone many changes to become the program it is today. Now, people who receive Social Security disability benefits can also receive Medicare coverage after 24 months, and their dependents may be eligible to receive benefits on their earnings records. There are also work incentives in place to help people with disabilities go back to work.

As of June 2016, there are more than 10 million disabled workers and dependents receiving a portion of the more than \$11 billion that is sent each month in Social Security disability payments. It can happen to anyone: studies show that a 20-year-old worker has a 1-in-4 chance of becoming disabled before reaching their full retirement age.

To meet the challenges of providing benefits to so many, the agency has evolved, using technology to operate more efficiently.

Access to online applications for disability benefits, reconsiderations, and hearings have given applicants more service options when applying for benefits. Our health IT initiative allows Social Security to access electronic medical records, including those from the U.S. Department of Defense, which reduces administrative costs, streamlines operations, and speeds up service to veterans.

Social Security is committed to securing today and tomorrow for our millions of disabled workers. For more information about the disability program, please visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityssi](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityssi).

# Don't be scared of using our secure services

By Alan Edwards, Social Security Public Affairs



Autumn is the season of dressing up as monsters and watching scary movies in the dark. Even though most of these tricks and treats are just for fun, some of them can be scary, and for good reason. One of the most common threats we face is identity theft. Just imagine someone stealing your information and pretending to be you. You'd have no control as this person acts in your name, spending money — and possibly, ruining your credit.

That's one trick you can do without, which is why we've added an extra layer of security for our customers when they interact with us online.

Your *my Social Security* at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount) is a safe and secure place to do business with us.

On July 30, 2016, Social Security implemented a new layer of security, asking account holders to sign into their account using a one-time code sent via text message. This second layer of security requires more than a username and a password is known as “multifactor authentication.” Although we have always provided the “extra security” option to account holders, we implemented this new process to comply with the President's Executive Order on *Improving the Security of Consumer Financial Transactions*.

As before July 30, current account holders will be able to access their secure account using only their username and password. We highly recommend the extra security text message option, but it will not be required. If you are uncomfortable with texting, we will be creating an option where you will receive a code via email.

We strive to balance security and customer service options, and we want to ensure that our online services are both easy to use and secure. The *my Social Security* service has always featured a robust verification and authentication process, and it remains safe and secure.

There's no requirement that you access your personal *my Social Security* account as a result of the steps we are taking. However, when you do access your account, we encourage you to sign up for the extra security text message option. You can access your account by visiting [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).



*“The tool that transforms indifference to understanding,  
apathy into action”*

### The AIDS Memorial Quilt

Please join [The Old Aurora Colony Historical Museum](#) and experience the [AIDS Memorial Quilt](#) in Aurora starting Friday, October 14th– Sunday, October 23rd

**Cost:** Admission is free.

**Hours:** 10 am to 4 pm weekdays and Saturdays,  
1 pm to 4 pm on Sundays.

**Location:** Aurora Presbyterian Church at 21553 Liberty St Ne, Aurora OR 97002

**Events:** Panel Presentation Saturday, October 15th– Time to be announced.

Updates available at [www.ohsu.edu/partnership](http://www.ohsu.edu/partnership)

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This issue, and issues from January 2011 on, can be  
found electronically [here](#)