

Ponca City's retirees in action

Prescription drug modeling sessions coordinated by the ConocoPhillips Retiree Association led to increased savings for Medicare recipients in 2011

According to a newly released analysis authored by researchers at Georgetown University, the Kaiser Family Foundation and National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, Medicare beneficiaries will, on average, be able to choose from 31 stand-alone Medicare Part D prescription drug plans in 2012.

Navigating the choices available – and discerning the differences between plans – can make the decision-making process seem overwhelming. An online tool at Medicare.gov allows users to model their prescription drug choices and learn valuable information about enrollment. Yet, many ConocoPhillips retirees in the Ponca City area do not have computers and/or need assistance to feel comfortable making decisions.

To help ConocoPhillips retirees understand the different plan costs and year-to-year changes, the ConocoPhillips Retirees Association recruits volunteers to conduct training and provide assistance for Medicare recipients.

Retirees Chuck Clark and Darryl Klopp have led the effort for the last several years with assistance provided by Medicare advocates from the Northern Oklahoma Development Authority.

According to Rich Terrill, president of ConocoPhillips' Retirees Association of Ponca City in Oklahoma, in the last two years alone, the group has had nearly 600 Medicare recipients seeking assistance for prescription drug modeling, creating a projected savings of more than \$380,000 or approximately \$650 per person.

"The online modeling and analysis tools at Medi-



care.gov are very robust and can provide excellent information on plan costs, drug costs and year-to-year changes; however, the information can be challenging to evaluate, especially for some seniors," Terrill said. "As an example, choices in north central Oklahoma originally included nearly 50 different prescription drug plans from which to choose. For 2011, that number was reduced to 30 plans. It is likely that some recipients were enrolled in a more costly plan that was no longer the most appropriate for them. We can help explain their choices and let them make the best enrollment decision for their personal situation."

"It is particularly gratifying when the annual savings is \$4,000 to \$7,000 per person, as we have witnessed over the last several years for some of our Medicare recipients. The retirees are extremely pleased and express their heartfelt gratitude for the assistance we provide," Terrill said.

"Our ConocoPhillips retiree associations set great examples for how we can continue assisting many of our former employees. We applaud the efforts of the Ponca City Retiree Association to support their fellow retirees in making individual choices

continued on next page

Ponca City's retirees in action continued from Page 11

around Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage," said Lynn Tramel, U.S. benefits manager. "This year, the modeling/cost comparison of Medicare Part D plans saved an average of \$674/year per participating retiree, with the greatest savings being \$4,032/year for one lucky retiree."

For Terrill the value goes well beyond dollars and cents: "This is an opportunity for us to assist many of our friends, neighbors and former co-workers with valuable prescription drug information. Understanding their benefits and benefit options makes a difference in their lives, especially as the Medicare Part D program continues to grow and reach more ConocoPhillips retirees each year."

We would like to hear from you too. If you have a story to share about ConocoPhillips retirees helping other retirees, please email eStream Digest editor Ray Scippa at Ray.Scippa@conocophillips.com.

The group of ConocoPhillips' retirees who volunteered their talent to support the 2011 Medicare Part D assistance initiative in Ponca City also included:

Curtis Bradley, David Awtrey, Frances Roady, Mike Kruck, Don Lockwood, Andy Longoria, Norma Buffalow, Phil Dotson, Deryn Stewart, Don Sprueilli, Ed Macy, Gene Rahn, Janet Erhart, Rhea Jones, Ruth Cales, Don Hopkins, Harold Watson, Barbara Watson and Chris Martens.

Through partnerships with local nonprofit organizations, the group uses the volunteer hours to apply for grants through the ConocoPhillips Volunteer Grant Program.

My Life After ConocoPhillips continued from Page 10



5. What has surprised you most about life after ConocoPhillips?

Probably the biggest surprise was my adjustment period. Thirty-two years at the company had occupied the larger part of my life, and I thought it might be hard NOT to be involved any longer in day-to-day results. But I can honestly say that it was seamless, due in large part to those people who succeeded me. Confident in their strengths and abilities, I knew that whatever happened next would be carried out well. Though I have genuinely missed the relationships with customers, employees and friends, my wife and I are enjoying this new stage in our lives. We do, however, highly recommend talking to other retirees and preparing yourself for the various changes that you will face in your retirement. Oh yes, and life after ConocoPhillips allows you to have an occasional glass of wine at lunch!

Lloyd Cullison looking relaxed

Retirement stories like this one are inspiring and can offer 'food for thought' to other ConocoPhillips retirees across the U.S. Help us spread the word about this section of eStream Digest or tell us about your own 'Life After ConocoPhillips.' Please contact Mariana Cavin at mariac@conocophillips.com, or call 281-293-6667.