



*“From Where I Sit ...”*

## **Coronavirus – Cautions and Scams!**

Amid the Coronavirus Pandemic, we daily hear of living in a new “normal” and, for many, this reality has hit home hard. From stay-at-home mandates to social distancing of 6 feet (some say 12) to mandatory masks, gloves and wipes, we are learning to live in a different existence without any sure knowledge as to when life will return to normal (if ever). And for those who have contracted the disease or lost loved ones to it, life will never be the same!

In the meantime, we are cautioned to be both prepared for changes and on guard for scams engineered by those who would exploit the less fortunate and unaware. In the “*Special Pandemic Issue 2020*” of the AARP Bulletin, the article entitled Get Ready for a New Job Market (**May 2020 AARP.ORG/Bulletin, p. 31**) offered some positive suggestions for those who truly seek to be prepared for a total new work experience, especially older Americans. The article offered eight suggestions whose titles I will list and encourage you to seek the full article:

- 1) Learn new digital communication platforms (*i.e. video interviews or meetings, chats, etc.*).
- 2) Polish your LinkedIn profile.
- 3) Police your digital identity.
- 4) Look for work-from-home jobs.
- 5) Update your résumé (*i.e. keep it short, no more than 2 pages*).
- 6) Network virtually.
- 7) Learn something new (*a skill or a certification, study webinars and podcasts on subjects of interest*).
- 8) Plan to work longer (*until investments rebound or beyond normal retirement*).

In the meantime, be on guard for scams. In the same issue under Fraud Watch (**p. 32**), the following article “A New Tool for Stealing: Coronavirus” offered these rules:

- 1) Watch out for fake government approaches (*i.e. the government will never ask for your credit card or for you to pay by gift card*).
- 2) Go to the websites of trusted charities directly (*if you want to help others*).
- 3) Do not be tricked by fake news stories (*go to [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for updates*).

Finally visit [aarp.org/scams](https://aarp.org/scams) to learn more about the latest coronavirus scams.

Under the circumstances of this new normal, it is important to keep up with what is occurring in our world and how we can best be prepared so I encourage you to read reputable periodicals such as the one cited above to better protect yourselves and your loved ones. It’s important to be aware. *Or at least that’s the way it looks to me ...*

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