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Another Good Service Call... And Cold Enough for Chilli.

All, I am not convinced that coincidences really exist; however, I am fascinated by the way certain events seem to string together, seemingly unexplainably. (Quantum Mechanics?)

Health Insurance & Drug Coverage...

In Jackson County, WI. we have an entity called Health & Human Services. They have a division which guides the elderly (me) through what may be a confounding maze to lead a codger to the right health insurance and drug coverage. A couple of months ago I took advantage of the service to be ready for a pending change in my drug coverage.

I met with the counselor and learned that the plan that I was using is going to have a significant increase in premium. From \$6 to \$57 per month. An alternative recommended by the counselor sounded good, especially since I understood that the pharmacy where I have been a customer for 25 years was included in their plan. So I made the switch. Turned out to be dumb.

Discovering my folly...

This morning my intuition kicked in and I decided to check the materials that I had been sent by the new drug insurer. They were impossible to read and/or interpret. Made a call to the company to check out a few things that were completely unclear. (So were the people I spoke with, who were several time zones away.) The most important thing that I found out was that the pharmacy I have been using for about a quarter-century was not included in their list of approved providers. However, to console me they said that I could use Walgreens. Not exactly a consolation prize since the closest Walgreens is 27 miles away, in Sparta WI. I also would've been able to use Walmart, much closer, but I just don't like shopping there, especially for drugs.

My next move...

I knew I had to move fast because today, December 7th, was the last day to sign up for various health insurance programs. Rather than dillydally I immediately called my former insurer. I lucked out.

I was connected to a licensed all insurance salesperson for the company, named Tony. (In Cincinnati) He understood what I was looking to do and took me through the process step-by-step. The total duration of the call was 1 hour 35 minutes.

Speaking with Tony was like a seminar in drug coverage insurance. He explained every detail to me. He exhibited remarkable patience with some of the questions that I asked since I was not well-versed in the subject. It was an education. Much needed and appreciated. The result of the conversation was to return to the way things had been done previously. Further, I was able to realize that the premium is essentially nominal in relation to the discounts that I will enjoy. Another significant factor is that I will be using the same pharmacy that I have been using for years. It's about 10 minutes from my home. They know me and I know them and they are good folks.

I bet you can guess what I did next...

I had Tony's full name, the name of the company that would be providing the drug coverage, and the motivation to write to the CEO of the company to let him know that he had a superior purveyor of information/salesperson on his team. With a few clicks on the keyboard I found the name of the CEO, the address of the company. I was ready to roll.

I wrote a letter to him. Will send tomorrow. I think that after the CEO reads the letter, he will want to clone Tony.

Another cold day – good for cooking chili...

It was so cold today that you could put your feet in the refrigerator to warm them up. Of course, I didn't do that. The thermometer hovered around 11°F [-11°C]. At the moment it is 4°F[-15°C]. As you might imagine it was a very good day to stay indoors.

Had an ample supply of lean ground beef, diced tomatoes, and pinto beans, as well as packets of McCormick's chili mix. Then, there's the handy-dandy crockpot, which is so simple to use that even I can do it. Therefore, I made chili.

Because experience has taught me that it is best to have chili sit in the refrigerator overnight in order for all of the flavors to become co-mingled, I won't know how good it is (or isn't) until tomorrow. No matter what the outcome is, I will share it with the APT Group

I have heard that some people make chili using turkey. Not yet for me. But it does sound like a very good idea. At least for a change of pace.

And now...

I'm at the point in this APT where I think I should probably stop writing before I wander off into something that will make no sense. So...

First yawn...

Until tomorrow...

Ken

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