Wednesday
Feb 20  1:00 p.m.
EMS

An EMS representative will present the program on general EMS topics. During the snack break, volunteers will give out Vial of Life packets. The Vial of L.I.F.E (Lifesaving Information for Emergencies) is a program that allows individuals to have their complete medical information ready in their home for emergency personnel to reference during an emergency. This program is used to provide the patient’s medical information when a patient is not able to speak or remember this information.

Refreshments: Show your love for Valentine’s day. Bring a favorite snack to share with fellow members. All your contributions are appreciated as we have been having large crowds.

The First Trip of 2019
1. Heritage Craft Village in Waco, Texas (Self-guided tour)
2. Lunch on your own at Ninfa’s Mexican Restaurant
3. Shopping at Spice Village
4. MYSTERY STOP before returning home.
Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2019
Departure at 8:00 A.M. from SASAC
Leaving Waco at 4:30 p.m.
Cost: $45  (It includes charter bus, driver gratuities, treats, raffle prizes and a Mystery Stop)
Make check to AARP Chapter 2426
Sign up: At the AARP Meeting on Feb. 20, 2019 (Maximum 40 people)
This trip is open to members first. Members who are absent on sign-up date (Feb.20, 2019) must mail a check to Rosie Perez before the end of the following week. Non-members may sign up, but will be placed on a waiting list. After a week from the sign-up date, non-members will be given a seat and late members will be standing in line behind them.
*Non-members are not allowed to go on the trip as companion or friend of a fellow-member unless there is room for them. They must sign up on a stand-by basis and wait until the official registration period is over. (My recommendation: Encourage your non-members friends, who like to come with you, to become members of our chapter.)

Crispin Guzman, Pete Skalnik and Mayor Steve Adler at our January AARP Chapter 2426 meeting
Sign up with Rosie at the February AARP meeting at which time you must also fill out a Waver Form if you have not done so.
Rosie’s address: Rosie Perez, 2504 Stoutwood Circle, Austin, Texas 78745
Email: rosie9708@gmail.com
Mario Macaluso,
Trip Coordinator EMAIL: mmdm1967@aol.com

Health
Barbara Kaiser

Health Committee Update
The Health Committee has changed focus.
Mission: Present a broad program of health related topics to the members of 2426.
Objective: Broaden emphasis from disease orientation to overall health for seniors.
Projects: Newsletter articles, Health fairs, Programs at AARP meetings Increase Committee size, and other projects to be determined by members.

At present, we have three permanent members. Two more volunteers have offered to help with a table at the next meeting. We will be giving out Vial of Life packets to each member to alert EMS. We welcome new members (no qualifications) who would like to bring new ideas and or just help. If you would like to help, please contact co-chairmen Gail Glick, 214-808-6622, and Barbara Kaiser, 512-282-0960.

State AARP updates

STORIES NEEDED: Surprise Medical Bills
Earlier this week, AARP Texas Director Bob Jackson appealed to e-activists to share their stories of surprise medical billing. These real-life stories may compel the Legislature to take action to end the practice of surprise medical billing, which can arise amid billing disputes between insurers and medical providers.

If you have a surprise medical billing story to share, tell us more in this AARP Texas survey: http://action.aarp.org/site/Survey?ACTION_REQUIRED=URI_ACTION_USER_REQUEST&S&survey_id=46697

2019 Priorities for the New Congress

Getting to know Chapter 2426 Members

Renee Lopez

I was born and raised right here in Austin, Texas! Though I am of Mexican heritage, my family has been in Texas for a few generations.
I am a graduate of the University of Texas where I earned my Masters degree in Education in 1986. My parents are both deceased. I am the oldest of 4 children. My parents were great believers in education and pushed all of us to excel in school. We all graduated from college and have professional careers.

I worked for 30 years with the Social Security Administration. I worked many levels of the administration until I retired in 2014. Although I truly enjoyed working, I was so ready to retire. I am enjoying the retired life very much.

So now in my 'Golden Years', I spend time advocating for the rights of people with disabilities. You see, I was born with a physical disability called Arthrogryposis that caused contractures of my arms and legs. As a child I had multiple corrective orthopedic surgeries. I use a motorized wheelchair. Don't feel sorry for me though! Despite my disability, I live a very productive, active and independent life. I own my own home, drive a modified van, travel and have many friends.

Besides being a member of AARP Chapter 2426, I am on the board of several nonprofit organizations... Accessible Housing Austin! that provides accessible, affordable and integrated housing for people with disabilities, Very Special Arts Texas that provides programs for artistic self-expression (such as art, music, writing, dance and self-advocacy through public speaking) for people with disabilities. I am also a member of ADAPT, a grassroots organization that fights for legislative rights for people with disabilities.

My latest project is being part of the Bold Beauty Project. This project celebrates women with disabilities who define beauty to include their disabilities to boldly live life’s challenges...http://texasboldbeauty.com

When I was growing up as a child with a disability, the world did not accept us; there was no accessibility and no civil rights. We were segregated from mainstream society and most of us were placed in institutions. Through years of advocacy from the disabled community, a lot has changed.

Doing all this volunteer work for all these organizations, along with others I didn't mention, I feel I am finally living my true life's purpose. My philosophy is that one is morally obligated to leave the world a better place than the way one found it. I hope to do just that.

If you know a chapter member whom you would like to introduce to the chapter, please contact Pete Skalnik or Diane McGowan.

Chapter 2426 Treasurer’s Report

Barbara Fetonte

Checking $1971.68
Travel $ 754.75
Savings $ 25.00

2019 AARP Chapter Dues

Yearly dues for the chapter are due now through March 31, 2019. Chapter dues are only $10.00. With your dues we are fortunate to be able to donate to the Central Texas Food Bank, Family Elder Care, Drive a Senior, AARP Foundation, etc. Your dues also allow the Chapter to produce the monthly newsletter. If you are not sure if your dues are up to date, please email Barbara Fetonte at bfetonte@gmail.com or call her at 512-497-1432.

We currently have 218 members. 102 have already renewed their dues for 2019. If you are over 85 years old, you are exempt from paying the Chapter dues.

The meeting in February with the Mayor was outstanding. We had a total of 104 people attend. There were 83 members and 21 guests in attendance. We would like to welcome our new members that joined in February.

They are: Rosanne Rico
          Annette Centorbi
          Irene Lethonen

February, 2019
Upcoming AARP Events
Feb 12         Team Community Council Meeting
Feb 20         Chapter 2426 meeting
March 26      Chap 2426 Board Meeting

Chapter 2426
Charitable Contributions
Empty egg cartons - bring to next meeting so they can be distributed to area food banks
Pull Tabs - Donated to local Ronald IMcDonald House

Drive a Senior Thank you
Santa and Mrs. Clause, Mary & Gary Bagby, delivered packages to Eunice & David Shanks.

We would like to express our appreciation and thanks on behalf of the fifty Drive A Senior South Austin clients who received the lovely and generous gift bags you collected during your annual holiday giving event. The gifts you offer, for some, are the only ones received. Heart felt thanks were expressed when delivered and many followed up with cards and phone calls.
Thank you for offering this opportunity for our volunteer drivers to connect with our clients in such a joyful way.
with gratitude,
Stephanie Braddock, Regional Director, the Board and Clients of DASSA

Anniversaries
Lloyd and Karin Matthys 7
Rex Pendleton 24
Miles Abernathy 29

Volunteer Hours
Ed Gonzales
January volunteer hours: 802
Year to date: 802
Total for 2018: 8315

February Birthdays
Anita Werbner 1
Rita Painter 4
Salma Tames 10
Iola Canady 11
Delaine Brady 11
James Sanchez 11
Connie Flores 16
Brett Cotham 17
Myrtle Holmes 19
Bertha Lighthourn 20
Anna Saenz 21
Sandra Collier 23

2018 Officers
And Committee Chairs
Officers
President: Pete Skalnik 214-704-9562
Vice President: Elaine Benton 512-799-2224
Secretary: Ed Gonzales 512-444-3335
Assistant Secretary: Marilyn Totten 512-280-8030
Treasurer: Barbara Fetonte 512-282-1944
Assistant Treasurer: Rosie Perez 512-440-7050
Board of Directors (in addition to officers):
Nancy Crowther 512-444-5726
Al Prewitt 512-287-9847
Committee Chairs
Community Service: Pat Thomas 512-441-1485
Greeters: Marilyn Totten 512-280-8030
Health: Barbara Kaiser 512-282-0960
Gail Glick 214-808-6622
Hospitality: Connie Flores 512-444-8636
Legislative: Debbie Galloway 512-217-1566
Membership: Margaret Hughes 512-956-3297
Newsletter Editor And Web Manager:
Diane McGowan 512-892-4416
Program:
Jose Saenz 512-554-1583
Crispin Guzman 737-222-8155
Phone Committee Chair
Elaine Benton 512-799-2224
Sunshine:
Doris Thorne 512-441-6038
Kathryn Stone 512-441-6038
Travel
Mario Macaluso 512-432-5255

February, 2019
CIVIC AND/OR COMMUNITY SERVICE BY SOUTH AUSTIN AARP CHAPTER 2426 VOLUNTEERS

PLEASE BRING THIS INFORMATION TO THE CHAPTER MEETING
AND TURN IN TO: ED GONZALES

Name__________________________ Address______________________ Phone____________

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>AARP Annual Day of Service</td>
<td>Fundraising for Community Service</td>
<td>AARP Driver Safety Program</td>
<td>Health &amp; Wellness</td>
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<tr>
<td>AARP Tax Aide</td>
<td>Long-term Care/Nursing Home Support</td>
<td>Hunger</td>
<td>Independent Living/ In Home Care Giving/Home Repairs</td>
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<td>Advocacy/Legislation/Information/Referral Services</td>
<td>Independent Living: Transportation Services</td>
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<td>Education/Scholarships or other</td>
<td>All Other Volunteer Areas</td>
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<td>Subtotal</td>
<td>Total Volunteer Hours</td>
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South Austin Chapter 2426 Membership Renewal 2019

PLEASE PRINT

Name: __________________________________________________________________________

Address: ________________________________________________________________________

City: ___________________________ State: ____________ Zip: ________________

Phone Number: ________________________________________________________________

E-mail Address (Print Clearly) _________________________________________________

Signature: ___________________________________________ Date: ________________

Dues are $10.00 by cash or check       Dues are waived if over 85 years old. Check if you over 85 ______

Complete and bring this renewal with your payment to the next meeting (checks should be made payable to South Austin AARP Chapter 2426)

OR mail this renewal with your payment to:
South Austin AARP Chapter 2426, Barbara Fetonte, 8301 Washita Drive, Austin, TX 78749

Please check any committee(s) on which you are interested in serving

____ Program  ____ Membership  ____ Hospitality  ____ Telephone
____ Sunshine  ____ Legislative  ____ Community Srv  ____ Health Care
____ Travel (ad hoc)  ____ Public Relations  ____ Newsletter