January, 2020

South Austin AARP
Chapter 2426

Website: www.southaustinaarp.org

Wednesday
January 15  1:00 p.m.
Tabitha Taylor, Age-Friendly Action Plan Program Coordinator for the City of Austin, will seek members input on senior issues in Austin.

The Commission on Seniors’ Forum is designed to capture feedback of Older Adults that reside within our local community. Your feedback will help the Commission on Seniors make recommendations on the City of Austin's upcoming budget. She will present the survey to our South Austin Chapter. The survey will ask you to share thoughts regarding topics that impact your daily life. We encourage all our members to come and participate!
The survey will take about 10-15 minutes. There will be an opportunity to give additional feedback and comments at the end of the survey.

Refreshments: Please bring snacks or finger foods. Thanks to our members who faithfully provide refreshments each month.

At our December meeting, Chapter 2426 presented Drive a Senior Central Texas with Christmas bags for their clients. Nicole Sakar, Executive Director reported that over 66 clients received gift bags and gives thanks to chapter members who helped to deliver the bags.

Pat Thomas, Chapter 2426 Community Service chair, and Pat Liston, representative of Drive a Senior Central Texas

Chapter 2426 2020 Officers Installed

Treasurer: Bill Nicholson, Board Members: Wanda Hasley, Secretary: Ed Gonzales, Assistant Treasurer: Rosie Perez, Board Members: Marie Martinez, Assistant Secretary: Marilyn Totten, President: Crispin Guzman, Vice President: Nancy Crowther

Roll and Stroll
Pat Thomas
Deborah Finnell

Events Planned for January and February

Wednesday Jan. 8th - Thrift Store Adventure
Goodwill Stores on January 8th & 9th are holding a special sale offering 50% off everything in the store (except new red tag items) Do you need a new toaster, crockpot, or scarf ?....get it for 1/2 off - what a deal!! We will travel on bus route #801 to a very large Goodwill located at 5555 N. Lamar. Half Price Books is adjacent to the store. We will eat prior to shopping at
a cafe named New World Deli - great soup, salads and sandwiches. A special email alert will be mailed to you in a few days announcing departure times.

**Friday January 17th** - We will try again to see the Motown Exhibit at the LBJ Library. If weather is bad we will reschedule for the 24th. More information will be emailed to you by January 10th.

**Saturday Feb 1st** - Oakwood Cemetery Tour and special event

“Caminar” is a walking history and cultural event to honor Tejanos buried in Austin’s Oakwood Cemetery. Activities include a ceremonial dance, a musical procession, storytelling and a tamale-making performance. 2 p.m. Oakwood Cemetery was originally established on 10 acres as the City Cemetery in 1839, the same year the City of Austin was established. Today, the oldest municipal cemetery in the city has more than 23,000 burials on 40 acres and hosts a beautifully rehabilitated 1914 Chapel that serves as the Visitor Center. Departure time will be emailed to you in mid January.

**Sunday Feb 16th** - Lunar Chinese New Year Festival

Austin Chinese Culture Festival will be held on February 16. The Festival is supported by the Austin Cultural Arts Division and will take place at the AISD Performing Arts Center. The Festival will be an all-day event consisting of a wide variety of cultural booths, diverse cultural showcases (put on by local community members), a food market offering 50+ crowd-favorite dishes. Departure times have not yet been determined. The year 2020 is the year of the Rat. Our strolls are popular events so please have your RSVP to Deborah Fennell via Text at 512-915-8414 or Pat Thomas at [www.rollandstroll@austin.rr.com](http://www.rollandstroll@austin.rr.com)

**Chapter 2426 Volunteers of the Month**

**Lloyd and Karin Matthys**

Each month we will feature a member volunteer. If you would like to nominate someone, please contact Diane McGowan, 512-923-3218 [dianemcg70@gmail.com](mailto:dianemcg70@gmail.com), or talk to her at the meeting.

Lloyd and Karin Matthys settled in Austin in 1974, Lloyd retired from the Air Force in 1975 after 21 years of active duty. They both went to work for the IRS and after a few years they went to the VA and retired from there after almost 21 years. They have been volunteers at the Abiding Love Food Pantry every Monday from 8 am to 3:30 pm since it opened in 2005. They worked at a small local company for a couple of years and shortly after that they began volunteering as ushers at Bass Concert Hall for 13 years. As soon as The Long Center opened, they began to work there for 10 years. They retired from both of them at the same time and after sitting around for a while, Lloyd and Karin went to work at Zachery Scott Theater for about a year. They decided that was enough, the traffic really became too much of a drive from Buda. Now they work at the food pantry every Monday and at the Austin Energy Science Fest every February for 2 days starting this year. They had been doing that for 3 days for 14 years but decided to cut back a little bit. Volunteering can be hard work!

**Travel**

_Mario Macaluso_

April Day-Trip to Institute of Texas Cultures, San Antonio, Texas with stop at the Tower of the Americas and the River Center

**Date:** April 14, 2020

The cost is **$55.00** and includes charter coach, driver’s gratuities, admission to museum with a guided tour, treats, raffles and water.)

You must sign up in person at the monthly meeting on Feb.19, 2020
News from the AARP Fraud Network
Kathy Stokes

The Medicare DNA Testing Scam
Stop me if you’ve heard this: Medicare will cover the cost of a DNA test! This promise is being made by scammers over the phone, at senior centers, health fairs and even door to door. The truth is that Medicare pays for DNA tests only in specific cases, and only if your doctor orders the test. The ruse is to get your Medicare or private health insurance information so scammers can bill Medicare for billions in false claims. If you’re approached with an offer for “free” anything from Medicare, it’s a scam.

That Problem With Your Social Security Number
The Federal Trade Commission reports that the most common form of government impostor scam involves pretending to be from the Social Security Administration — a scam that ticked up markedly in 2019. A common tactic involves fake Social Security Administration employees calling people with warnings that their Social Security numbers had been linked to criminal activity. The scam takes on many variations, but in each the threat is that your Social Security account has been suspended and you need to take immediate action (usually “confirming” your Social Security number or requiring payment by purchasing gift cards and providing the caller with the card number and PIN). Know this: the Social Security Administration does not block or suspend numbers, ever. And anytime someone seeks payment for a debt or other obligation by gift card, it is a scam.

Equifax Data Breach Settlement
In 2017, Equifax announced a data breach that exposed the personal information of 147 million people. Under a settlement with the federal government in 2019, Equifax agreed to reimburse those affected with up to 10 years of free credit monitoring service, or a cash payment of up to $125. (According to Equifax, the payout is now much lower due to the high number of people claiming this option.) You can find out if your information was exposed at ftc.gov/equifax, and if it has been, you can file a claim at equifaxbreachsettlement.com until January 22, 2020.

Illegal Robocalls and Legislative Relief?
Billions of illegal and unwanted robocalls continue to vex U.S. consumers, and too often result in significant financial loss to victims. According to an AARP survey in early 2019, 90 percent of U.S. adults said they want the government to do more to address this scourge. Enter the Pallone-Thune TRACED Act, endorsed by AARP. The bill would require phone providers to make sure that an incoming call is coming from who Caller ID says it’s coming from. If the Caller ID doesn’t match the origin of the call, then it can be blocked or tagged for the consumer as “scam likely.”
If you spot a scam like any of these, or if you or a loved one has fallen victim, our AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline is here for you. Call to talk to staff and trained volunteer fraud fighters at 1-877-908-3360.
2020 Membership Dues

It is time to pay your $10 yearly chapter dues for the fiscal year 2020. Chapter 2426 fiscal year is January through December. To be considered an active member of Chapter 2426 your 2020 yearly dues must be paid by March 2020. If you have not paid your 2020 dues, please bring $10.00 to the next meeting. If unable to attend the meeting, you may mail the dues to Bill Nicholson, 12512 Gun Metal Dr, Austin, TX 78739. If paying by check, make the check out to AARP Chapter 2426. Remember if you are 85 or older, you are exempt from paying the yearly dues.

Minutes: The minutes of the November 18th, 2019 meeting as published in the recent newsletter were approved as written.

Elaine Benton reported that the Chapter 2426 meeting sign was vandalized beyond repair and that the issue about replacement will be addressed at the next board meeting.

Chapter 2426 Officers and Board Members for 2020

The nominees for the Chapter officers and Board Members were installed by Mary Ragland. They are: President: Crispin Guzman, Vice President: Nancy Crowther, Secretary: Ed Gonzales, Assistant Secretary: Marilyn Totten, Treasurer: Bill Nicholson, and Assistant Treasurer: Rosie Perez. New Board Members nominees are: Wanda Hensley and Marie Martinez.

PROGRAM

The scheduled program was to be by Mr. Preston “Ty” Tyree Co-Founder of WAAO (We Are All One) along with his spouse Ani Colt, CEO who were going to present, describe, and provides examples of the Trike Neighborhoods Program in our Community. However, they failed to show and will be tentatively scheduled at a later date.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Attendance and Membership Committee

Margaret Hughes announced that today we have 3 guests, 4 new members since our last meeting and had a total of 81 attendees present. We now have over 250 members. Margaret also announced that she would like to relinquish her chair of this committee for the coming year and asked for a volunteer to take over her duties.

Treasurer’s Report

Barbara Fetonte reported by email that the Account Balances were: Regular Checking $2,539.30; Travel $509.02 and Savings of $25.00.

Community Service Committee

Deborah Fennell and Pat Thomas reported on the Holiday sing along Roll and Stroll with dinner at the North Italia Restaurant. There are to set dates yet for strolls in January, but check your emails and newsletters for more information.

Sunshine Committee

There were 8 December Birthdays and no Anniversaries.

Health Committee

Randy Hsi reported that there are several health related programs planned for 2020, and that February is Heart Health month. He also reminded the members that there will be a resource table located at the back of the meeting.
meeting room with various handouts and pertinent information covering many aspects of health.

**Travel Committee**

Mario Macaluso reported that we enjoyed 4 great day trips in 2019. He also explained the planning, coordination and expenses involved in coordinating these trips. Our next trip will be to visit the The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) Institute of Texan Cultures which is a museum and library located in HemisFair Park in Downtown San Antonio, Texas. It serves as the state's primary center for multicultural education, with exhibits, programs, and events in celebration of the many ethnicities that make up the population of Texas. Also is planned is a visit with the option to have lunch at the Tower of the Americas, a 750-foot observation tower-revolving restaurant that was built as the theme structure of the 1968 World's Fair.

**Hospitality Committee**

Members again were thanked for their generous food offerings and are encouraged to help themselves to any items left over and to remember to take back dishes and serving utensils.

**Program Committee**

Chairman Crispin Guzman reported that since he is taking over the added responsibility of Chapter president, he would like to merge the Program and Health Committees under direction of Randy Hsi. Further discussion on this will be at the Board meeting.

**Remember:** Bring your aluminum ring tabs to Rita Furbish for the Ronald McDonald House.

Ed Gonzales, Secretary

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**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**

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Total Volunteer Hours