

South Austin AARP

Chapter 2426

Website: www.southaustinaarp.org

July 2020

Message from the President

Crespin Guzman

COME ALONG FOR THE RIDE... and I am not talking about Roll & Stroll

I am referring to the road into the future that we have been dealt as a result of COVID 19 and all the fallout associated with it. Particularly, community health, the economy overall, general travel along with many other facets of our lives that affect some of us directly and indirectly. We are a generation and significant community segment of the population at great risk along with everyone else, so I guess it is ok to say, **“we are all in this together.”**

However, each one of us individually has a personal responsibility to maintain a standard of care relative to everyone else under all circumstances that we are faced with on a day to day basis. This standard of care continues to be redefined and changes in response to variety of experiences being observed by our Community leadership and at all levels of government. My hope is that we will be able manage it well enough to see the end of it at some point in the future.

So where does South Austin AARP Chapter 2426 fit into all this? We have to work within those constraints imposed on us as citizens and as a community group. So, as I have said before we will be trying to manage our contact to you, our members, **via a Virtual World**. July will give us an opportunity to experience it on various fronts but primarily with our Program delivery. There will also be other aspects of how we manage communications that can be helpful to our membership whereby we partner with SASAC, AARP and others to make their

newsletters/bulletins available to you. We hope to make more opportunities for you to benefit from this collaboration.

So for now just enjoy the ride as we maneuver in and about **“our new (but not completely yet) normal”**. Stay informed and be safe.

Future Programs

Randy Hsi

AARP Chapter 2426 will be moving its program content to an online computer (or tablet) format. We've scheduled the following programs:

August 19 : Cap Metro Project Connect, Jackie Nirenberg (confirmed)

September 16: Lowering the Cost of your Prescriptions, Randy Hsi (confirmed)

October 21: The Aging Brain, Dr Burtleson, Neurologist

November 18: Affordable Housing in Austin, Tabitha Taylor, City of Austin

Programming will be hosted on Zoom on the scheduled date at 1 pm. Programs will also be live streamed on Facebook for those who don't have Zoom access. We'll be emailing out access information prior to each meeting. Contact Randy Hsi chapter program committee chairman with questions at rhsi@healthmarkets.com.

In observance of the July 4th holiday, Meals on Wheels Central Texas will be closed on Monday, July 6th. The next regular distribution will be on Monday, July 13th from 10am-noon. Questions? Call 737-218-4152

National AARP Statement
AARP CEO Jo Ann Jenkins

WASHINGTON—AARP CEO Jo Ann Jenkins released the following statement today in response to states beginning to answer concerns over racial injustice, law enforcement practices, and disparities:

“We commend lawmakers in Iowa, New York, and Colorado who, within the past week, passed bipartisan reforms to address inequities and disparities that have prevented African Americans and other people of color from feeling safe in their own communities.

“As older Americans, many of our 38 million members remember the struggle to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the painful events of 1968, the likes of which we had hoped we would never see again. Yet, in recent years, the movement for racial justice has gained renewed momentum. Just as TV cameras captured the cruel, inhumane treatment of African Americans and other nonviolent protesters in the 1960s, cell phone recordings today are forcing every American to see for themselves the brutal, unjustifiable, and often deadly treatment of African Americans. Our belief that Black Lives Matter motivates our continued work to fight discrimination, racial inequities, and health, financial and other disparities. The pandemic is a clear reminder of disparities’ toll: African Americans are nearly three times as likely to be hospitalized and shoulder a disproportionate number of deaths – accounting for 13% of the population, but 23% of all COVID-19 deaths in the U.S.

“At this critical moment for our nation, AARP commends the bipartisan strides that states and localities are making to address racial injustices and disparities. Lawmakers in these three states have also demonstrated that we can rise above partisan politics.

“It is critical that leaders from both parties at all levels of government continue to work together to

advance racial justice, healing, and new progress for our country toward full equality. The time is now.”

AARP’s work to address racial injustice and disparities spans federal and state legislative advocacy, legal advocacy, programs, services, and more.

Legislative
Mary Ragland

AARP Supports Nursing Home Residents during the COVID Pandemic

Council member Ann Kitchen, representing Austin City District 5, was co-sponsor of a resolution brought before the city council on May 7 to immediately provide funding to address the high percentage of nursing home residents contracting COVID. “This is to get resources now. We can’t wait for the state and federal government,” Kitchen said. “We will of course — our staff is doing this, and City Manager, I know you all are doing this — seek reimbursement where we can. But we can’t wait, and we need to take immediate action.” Passage of the resolution allowed the city to immediately take steps to protect nursing home residents. Jessica Lemann, an associate state director of outreach and advocacy at AARP Texas testified to support the resolution. AARP Texas released this Press Release:

AARP Texas Supports Austin City Council Nursing Home Resolution

AUSTIN, Texas — AARP Texas voiced support today for an Austin City Council resolution that calls for more resources to combat the high numbers of COVID-19 cases in area nursing homes. Sponsored by Council Member Ann Kitchen and other members of the council, a resolution listed as Item 59 on the Council’s Thursday agenda directs the city manager to “plan and collaborate with outside entities, develop, fund, and implement programs to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 among the residents and staff of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, and other vulnerable persons.”

Jessica Lemann, an associate state director of outreach and advocacy at AARP Texas, praised the proposal during public testimony today as a crucial step toward improving protection of a highly vulnerable nursing home population.

“Because of the gravity of the present challenge, it will require both new policies and additional resources and investments to address the growing needs of Austinites,” Lemann said. While severe health impacts of COVID-19 can occur at any age, Lemann noted that nursing and assisted living facility deaths comprise nearly two-thirds of the COVID-19 related deaths in Austin, which is even higher than the state average of 46.1 percent. “The actions outlined in the resolution include providing comprehensive testing of staff and residents, assessing staffing and responding to staffing needs where it is determined that there is a shortage, and ensuring adequate access to personal protective equipment,” she said. “AARP feels these steps are critical to stopping the spread in facilities and also the general public because it keeps the essential workers in these facilities safe.”

Lemann added, “Nursing home residents are among our city’s most vulnerable. They do not have the agency to protect themselves from this virus, so the onus is us to do so.”

From the state AARP office

Jessica Lehman Associate State Director of Outreach & Advocacy, AARP Texas

July 15 Volunteer Call on AARP Advocacy and Voter Engagement Efforts (National Call)

Join the conversation on Wednesday, July 15 at 1pm CT to hear about AARP’s advocacy around key priorities, including the nursing home crisis, hunger and other safety net issues, at the federal and state level. You’ll also receive an update on efforts to remind the 50+ about the decisive role they play in the election and the need to be able to vote safely. Guest speakers will include Campaigns Senior Vice President John Hishta and Government Affairs Senior Vice President Bill Sweeney. As always, time will be built in for your questions and comments.

Here’s how to join the call:

Date: Wednesday, July 15

Time: 1pm CT

Call-in Number: 877-209-3531 (toll-free and no PIN required)

If you have a question or comments about topics being addressed on the call,

feel free to submit them in advance. Just email volunteer@aarp.org by 6pm ET on July

14 and be sure to include “TTH question” in your subject line. We will also be taking questions by phone during the call. If you would like to listen live through the internet, please contact the Volunteer Helpline for the address by calling 833-VOL-AARP (865-2277) or emailing volunteer@aarp.org.

Call recording availability

As always, the calls will be recorded and stored on the Volunteer Portal - <http://volunteer.aarp.org> - in the Volunteer Teletown Hall folder within the Libraries tab. If you need help logging onto the Portal, please contact your state office, call AARP’s Volunteer Helpline at 833-VOL-AARP (865-2277) or email volunteer@aarp.org.

Know someone who could use a friendly chat?

Across the country, there are countless people who are feeling socially isolated and might benefit from a friendly call from one of AARP’s volunteers. Please let local nonprofits, neighbors and family know about the opportunity to request a Friendly Call in English or Spanish. Requests can be made through an online form in English or Spanish or by calling toll-free 888-281-0145 (English) or 888-497-4108 (Spanish).

Travel

Mario Macaluso

Greetings to all the members of AARP Chapter 2426 in South Austin:

I hope everyone is doing well by keeping busy and staying safe.

I wish I could announce a resumption of our day-trips. Unfortunately the invisible enemy is the only one who will decide when we will be able to get together again in the “old-fashioned way.”

As you know I had to cancel two-day trips, and I am still waiting for Clark Travel to reimburse me the deposits.

Let us continue to be hopeful and optimistic about future day-trips! In the meantime let us keep busy, fight doom and gloom and let us keep in touch with

each other, with people we know and members of the family to fight solitude, isolation and alienation. Let us flourish and reinvent ourselves as we wait for the day we will be able to congregate and walk around freely once again.

Volunteer Hours
Ed Gonzales
Total for 2020
1651 Hours

Chapter 2426 Volunteer hours while at home:

Making masks, Calling members*, Sending cards to members*, AARP Tele-Town Halls, Delivering food Helping neighbors, Community Garden work, ZOOM and Telephone meetings, Census calls, phone banks, AARP webinars, ASAC Activities online, Writing stories for the Chapter newsletter
 *Information available from Membership Chair Joann Cepero

2020 Officers
And Committee Chairs

Officers

President: Crespin Guzman 737-222-8155
 Vice President Nancy Crowther 512-808-7486
 Secretary: Ed Gonzales 512-444-3335
 Assistant Secretary: Marilyn Totten 512-280-8030
 Treasurer: Bill Nicholson 512-481-8464
 Assistant Treasurer: Rosie Perez 512-440-7050
 Board of Directors (in addition to officers):
 Wanda Hasley 512-280-9276 and Marie Martinez 512-276-4771

Committee Chairs

Community Service: Pat Thomas 512- 441-1485
 Deborah Fennell 512-282-9931

Greeters: Marilyn Totten 512-280-8030
 Health: Laura Dutton 512-740-9370
 Gail Glick 214-808-6622
 Hospitality: Connie Flores 512-536-0694
 Legislative: Mary Ragland 512-280-2661
 Membership: Joann Cepero 773-710-2053
 Newsletter Editor and Web Manager:
 Diane McGowan 512-923-3218

Program: Randy His 512-663-8196
 Phone Committee Chair:
 Elaine Benton 512- 799-2224
 Sunshine: Kathryn Stone 512-441-6038
 Travel Mario Macaluso 512-432-5255

Community Service Committee
Roll & Stroll Committee
Pat Thomas
Deborah Fennell

A little laughter, love and wisdom

AARP 2426 is pleased to announce that we made a donation of \$100.00 to Meals On Wheels. Meals On Wheels have been generous in providing curbside pickup of food for seniors via the SASAC. Your annual dues of \$10.00 make wonderful things happen.

Where were you on July 4th 1979? Perhaps you were enjoying the Willie Nelson Picnic or maybe you attended the concert in 1976 when it was in Gonzales, Texas where over 80,000 people came to see performers like Waylon Jennings, Kris Kristofferson, Jerry Jeff Walker, Roger Miller, Ray Wylie Hubbard, and more in 1976.

For more images visit The Briscoe Center for American History. We did a Roll & Stroll to that museum many years ago. We will again put that on the agenda for a future Roll & Stroll.

https://www.cah.utexas.edu/research/digital_collections.php

https://www.cah.utexas.edu/db/dmr/image_lg.php?variable=e_uttp_00313

https://www.cah.utexas.edu/db/dmr/dmr_result.php?find=4th+of+july&submit.x=0&submit.y=0

Helpful advice from Brigid Shea,

Travis County Commissioner Precinct Two

•If you are struggling to pay rent or a mortgage anywhere in Travis County you may be eligible for rent or mortgage assistance for up to three months; that program starts on June 29th. For more information, please click here.

<https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/health-human-services/individuals-families/basic>

•If you are struggling to pay utility bills, you may be eligible for utility assistance. For more information, please click here.

<https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/health-human-services/individuals-families/basic>

• If you or family members are in need of hot meals, Keep Austin Together has a network of partner organizations that are dedicated to feeding our community; more information here

<https://www.keeptaustinttogether.com/partner->

[organizations](#)). Travis County also offers food pantry assistance for basic groceries, more information here. (<https://www.traviscountytx.gov/health-human-services/community-centers>)

- If you are facing eviction because you are unable to pay rent, County Judge Sam Biscoe has issued an order banning evictions until July 25th, 2020. For more information, the full order is available here. (<https://www.traviscountytx.gov/images/docs/covid-19-order-10.pdf>)

- If you think you may have contracted COVID-19, you can access free testing. Learn more from Austin Public Health (<https://covid19.austintexas.gov>) and Community Care

(<https://communitycaretx.org/coronavirus-updates/coronavirus-updates.html>)

- If you have the virus and need to quarantine away from others in your household, Austin & Travis County have partnered to establish an Isolation Facility for free, safe lodging for residents who cannot safely self-isolate. Learn more here.

(https://www.traviscountytx.gov/images/news/isolation_facility.pdf)

MEMORIES FROM THE PAST. CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE LOCATION OF EACH OF THESE ROLL AND STROLL

EVENTS? We will stroll again when we determine that it is safe to do so. Fresh air is good for you so take a walk in your neighborhood. Develop an attitude of gratitude for the friends that support and surround you.

2016

2018



Chapter 2426 Treasurer's Report
Bill Nicholson

The dollar amounts in the Financial Information report are rounded to the dollar. If you want detail of an account/line item, please contact me.

South Austin AARP Chapter 2426 Financial Information June 30, 2020	
ASSETS	
Telco FCU Account Balances:	
Savings Account	25
Chapter Checking	3,116
Travel Checking	377
Total	3,518

There are 241 individuals listed on the Membership Roster. This includes 15 who are exempt from paying annual dues since they are 85 years or older. **There are 81 members who have yet to pay their annual 2020 dues.** Since no meetings are scheduled in the near future, please mail your \$10 dues check payable to AARP Chapter 2426 with the Membership Renewal 2020 form found on the last page of this newsletter to: Bill Nicholson, 12512 Gun Metal Dr., Austin, TX 78739. Acknowledgement will be sent to you for your records.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS COMPARED WITH BUDGET			
	Budget for 2020	Actual June 30	Budget less Actual
Receipts:			
Chapter dues	2,000	1,160	840
Travel (<i>day trips</i>)	0	0	0
Dividend/interest	2	1	1
Unused from June 30			572
Total Receipts	2,002	1,161	1,413
Disbursements:			
Meeting Expenses	225	43	182
Gifts or Donations Made	100	200	-100
Travel (<i>day trips</i>)	0	77	-77
Community (<i>Roll & Stroll</i>)	100	36	64
Administrative Costs	417	121	296
Newsletters	500	113	387
Receipts not budgeted	660	0	660
Total disbursements	2,002	589	1,413
Receipts less disbursements	0	572	0

**CIVIC AND/OR COMMUNITY SERVICE BY
SOUTH AUSTIN AARP CHAPTER 2426 VOLUNTEERS
PLEASE EMAIL THIS INFORMATION TO ED GONZALES
Edgonzales7@gmail.com. If you do not have email,**

mail to: Ed Gonzales, 710 Kinney Avenue, Austin, TX 78704

Note: You do not have to email the form. You may list the category and the hours for that category and the total number of hours.

Name _____ **Address** _____ **Phone** _____

Category	Hours	Category	Hours
AARP Annual Day of Service		Fundraising for Community Service	
AARP Driver Safety Program		Health & Wellness	
AARP Tax Aide		Long-term Care/Nursing Home Support	
Hunger		Independent Living/ In Home Care Giving/Home Repairs	
Advocacy/Legislation/Information/Referral Services		Independent Living: Transportation Services	
Education/Scholarships or other		All Other Volunteer Areas	
Subtotal		Subtotal	
			Total Volunteer Hours

**South Austin Chapter 2426
Membership Renewal 2020**

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: Please Print: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Dues are \$10.00 per individual.

Checks should be made payable to: South Austin AARP Chapter 2426. Mail this application and payment to :

South Austin AARP Chapter 2426 Bill Nicholson 12512 Gun Metal Drive Austin, TX 78739

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

_____ Program _____ Membership _____ Hospitality/Welcoming _____ Telephone

_____ Sunshine _____ Nominating _____ Legislative _____ Community Service

_____ Health Care _____ Public Relations _____ Travel _____ Ad Hoc