

# South Austin AARP Chapter 2426

Website: [www.southaustinaarp.org](http://www.southaustinaarp.org)

December 2020



**Wednesday  
December 16  
1:00 p.m.  
Holiday on Zoom**

The Board and chairpersons of Chapter 2426 invite you to join us in a Holiday Wonderland with music, films, jokes, stories, and cookies with eggnog (bring your own cookie and eggnog). Please wear a festive holiday hat or sweater to share the cheer. Do you know the 12 days of Christmas? The chapter choir will be singing (as a first) over Zoom! The lyrics will be provided! Also, as was done last month, a small token of our appreciation will be provided to random members who attend. Please join us on December 16, 2020 1pm.

**Message from the President**  
*Crespin Guzman*

In the last newsletter I mentioned beginning FY 2021 with less anxiety and a greater positive outlook. Well, it's beginning to look very positive on the COVID 19 front with the recent announcements about the vaccines being available soon!

That being said one can only hope that the impact of people getting the vaccine will get our AARP community back to some of our normal routines sooner than we may have envisioned. **So, let me thank everyone for doing their part in observing the behavioral protocols recommended by our health professional and government leaders.**

But, the next phase of work is still ahead of us and it will call for more of the same except that now we can see the light at the end of the tunnel more clearly and with that comes greater hope. So how do we celebrate especially during this holiday

season? By continuing to do what we can to help each other and together we can be successful!

We also have our budget for next year in a prefinal stage and it just requires Board approval. We will continue into next year with the same set of officers, Board members and Committee Chairs unless we are contacted to the contrary by someone in one of those positions. Additionally, to date, I have not received any indication by anyone else interested in joining the leadership group.

For now, let's concentrate on this holiday period and enjoy it as much as possible but in a safe way into the new year.

**Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

**Legislative**  
*Mary Ragland*

## AARP Recognized for Performance Excellence

The National Institute of Science and Technology, part of the US Department of Commerce <https://www.nist.gov>, recently awarded AARP **The Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award**. This is the highest level of national recognition for performance excellence that a U.S. organization can receive. The award focuses on performance in five key areas:

- Product and process outcomes
- Customer outcomes
- Workforce outcomes
- Leadership and governance outcomes
- Financial and market outcomes

Recipients of this award engage in a strenuous application process. Among the initiatives that contributed to receiving the award were:

- AARP has **doubled** the reach of its work to impact lives, from 32 million people in 2015 to more than 60 million in 2019.
- In 2018, AARP established the *AARP Brain Health Fund* to accelerate research into cures for all types of dementia, including Alzheimer's. The Fund was launched with a \$60 million investment in the Dementia Discovery Fund.
- To spur breakthrough products and services in the marketplace, AARP created the \$40 million *AARP Innovation Fund* that provides capital to innovative companies focused on improving the lives of the 50-plus and their families.
- Benchmarked data show AARP is in the 94th percentile of national comparisons for the employee survey item *"My Job Makes Me Feel Like I Am Part of Something Meaningful."* Annual spending on staff training has increased over the past three years, to around \$2.5 million.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization launched *AARP Community Connections*, an online platform that served more than 470,000 users and helped create nearly 800 mutual aid groups in communities nationwide in its first five months of operation in 2020.

## Become an AARP Activist

AARP is making a difference – whether it's **fighting to protect your hard-earned Medicare and Social Security benefits, save you money on your utility bills or ensure you can live independently as you age.**

**Sign up at the link below to become an AARP Activist**, and you'll receive the AARP Advocate, a free monthly e-newsletter; e-mail action alerts on the issues you care about; and the latest news on Congress and the White House.

[https://action.aarp.org/site/SPageServer/?jsessionid=00000000.app217a?NONCE\\_TOKEN=72C015760](https://action.aarp.org/site/SPageServer/?jsessionid=00000000.app217a?NONCE_TOKEN=72C015760)

[7A290E8614324DEB04FBF17&pagename=Get\\_Involved&intcmp=FTR-LINKS-ACT-ADVOCATE-EWHERE](https://www.aarp.org/advocacy/2021/07/29/7A290E8614324DEB04FBF17&pagename=Get_Involved&intcmp=FTR-LINKS-ACT-ADVOCATE-EWHERE)

### Find a Virtual Program

There are many activities you can find on line, from taking care of your car to dealing with grief during the holidays. Go to <https://local.aarp.org/austin-tx/aarp-events/> to register for virtual events that interest you.

## 2021 Legislative Agenda

One of the issues Texas AARP will address in the upcoming legislative session is long term care. To that end, AARP Texas wants state legislators, through their control of Medicaid funding, to adopt policies that do more to support living at home or in less restrictive settings, such as assisted living facilities.

Here's a link and attached look at the Texas page in the December 2020 AARP Bulletin.

The article highlights an element of our 2021 state advocacy agenda.

<https://states.aarp.org/texas/long-term-care-in-texas-shifting-focus-to-at-home>

### Travel

*Mario Macaluso*

Hi Fellow-Travelers

How are you doing? I hope you are all fine and safe during these trying times. Like you I am looking forward to the day when we will be able to resume our special and unforgettable day trips again.

As we wait for this special day, I am planning to set up a qualification score to give the best seats on the coach to fellow-seniors who exercise their gray cells by answering correctly the following five questions:

1. Jonny's mother had three children: The first was named Mark, the second was named Joe. What was her third child's name?

2. There is a clerk at the butcher shop. He is five feet ten inches tall and he wears size 13 sneakers. What does he weigh?

3. Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain in the world?

4. How much dirt is there in a hole that measures two feet by three feet by four feet?

5. What word in the English Language is always spelled incorrectly?

*You have until next month to get the correct answer, about 6 days for each question. Is this enough time to get the best seat on the coach? Haha*

Do not send me the answers

It is only a teasing game.

For fun I will give the answers in the next newsletter.

Keep healthy and safe.

P.S. Check out Facebook South Austin AARP Chapter 2426 for pictures and short videos that I post from time to time.

## **Tis The Season, From Where I Sit**

*Nancy Crowther Vice-President*

As I grit my teeth and flip yet another page on my calendar, I marvel at the fact that here comes Santa Clause! Although 2020 was not what we were used to, or ever imagined in our wildest dreams, as an AARP Chapter, we held it together! And thanks go out to all our rain-dears and elves for making it all happen. Flash back to January 2020-our new board members began with a presentation from the Austin Seniors Liaison Tabatha Taylor, the Rollers & Strollers went out on adventures using our marvelous Capital Metro bus service and eating wonderful food. Keeping up with matters of health we give thanks to the program and health coordinator, Randy His with his table of health resources and programming. Mario tantalized us with planned day trips, maybe next year? We said farewell to Margaret Hughes and hello to JoAnne Ciperio who took over the membership duties, signing in members and handing out new name badges to new members. There were always egg cartons, HEB bags for St. Ignatius offerings and who can forget the fabulous job by Rita Furbish with the pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House! Then there was the run-for-the-food-table. Always enjoyable and generous offerings from our members to share. It all came to a screeching halt in March when THE PANDEMIC arrived, we began to protect and quarantine ourselves and family from COVID-19. But the party never ended. Due to technology Chapter 2426 was able to participate in meetings, and presentations through ZOOM (on computer or on the phone) and we give profound thanks to Diane McGowan, the newsletter was published monthly to keep our members informed. Please watch your emails for the links to our Zoom meetings and presentations. December will be a different treat! December 16, 2020 1pm. Feliz Navidad!

## **Travel Holiday Memories When and Where??**



**Roll and Stroll and Community  
Service Committee**  
*Pat Thomas*



The 2019 Christmas picture was taken in the lobby of the Driskill Hotel followed by dinner in the Driskill Bar And Grill. Prior to dinner we viewed the Christmas tree at city hall and went shopping on 2nd street.

**We will make more memories in 2021.**

**A little wisdom**

**Commentary from Pat Thomas**

A few days ago my phone rang and it was an official sounding man stating that he was a government official with the Social Security administration. He said they had noticed that my social security number was being used for fraudulent activity. He stated that I needed to call a certain phone number to get my account unlocked or I would stop receiving my monthly social security payment. I listened to him for a couple of minutes and then responded with a few unkind words. This past month I've received several emails advising that my bank account at Wells Fargo was blocked because of fraudulent activity. I was instructed to contact them to restore my account. **I don't have an account with Wells Fargo!**

**Scrooge is still alive.** Don't give him or her any money, a gift card or any personal information. He is not a nice man!

Scamming the elderly is a multi-billion dollar business that drains the elderly of their retirement funds and government benefits. The *Orlando Sentinel* points out that elderly people lose about \$3 billion to scammers every year. The FBI says that people who grew up in the 1920s, '30s, and '40s are generally more trusting than other generations, which makes them susceptible to con artists.

Scammers can attack in a variety of ways. They're all generally trying to get some sort of personal information out of you, whether it's your social security number, Medicare information, retirement accounts, email accounts, or credit card information. They often appear as pop-ups and advertisements on websites, and within email campaigns.

There are several types of Internet scams that target seniors.

One of the primary examples of **phishing** happens when someone sends you an email containing malware. The email will most likely ask you to download something, or the malware will download automatically when you open the email. If this happens, delete it immediately. Whatever you download could damage your computer or install ransomware that allows hackers to search through everything on your computer, such as tax files, retirement account and bank account information, and more.

Recognizing phishing email scams:

**Grammatical errors.** Many phishing emails are filled with grammatical errors, odd capitalization, and misspellings. The emails might also contain odd phrases or sentences that sound a bit off.

**Low-resolution logo.** Phishers will often cut and paste the logos of government agencies, banks and credit card providers in their phishing emails. Be very suspicious of emails advising of winning sweepstakes, cheap drugs, anti-aging products, free travel and alleged Facebook friends.

**An example of a fraudulent Phishing email using the Google Name appears on the next page.**

Subject: UPDATE REQUEST  
To:



Dear Email Client,

In line with the Gmail's policy and pursuant to the terms and conditions of the account accepted by you, in accordance with applicable rules and regulations, We are reviewing all our accounts and pursuant to the review, Google may take extra decision to close certain accounts.

Therefore, Google has decided to close your account. If you still want to maintain your account with us, find in the **attached our account review and update instruction**. **This is valid for 72-Hours**

In case we don't hear from you within the above stated time period, Google will proceed to close your account after 30 days from the date of this notice. All the contents of your account will be permanently deleted.

Regards  
Gmail Team

This email can't receive replies. For more information, visit the Google Accounts Help Centre.

### T'was the night before Christmas Texas Style

T'was the night before Christmas, in Texas, you know.  
Way out on the prairie, without any snow.  
Asleep in their cabin, were Buddy and Sue,  
A dreamin' of Christmas, like me and you.  
Not stockings, but boots, at the foot of their bed,  
For this was Texas, what more need be said,  
When all of a sudden, from out of the still night,  
There came such a ruckus, it gave me a fright.  
And I saw 'cross the prairie, like a shot from a gun,  
A loaded up buckboard, comin on at a run,  
The driver was "Geein" and "Hawin", with a grin,  
The horses (not reindeer) he drove with such skill.  
"Come on there Buck, Poncho, & Prince, to the right,  
There'll be plenty of travelin' for you all tonight."  
The driver in Levi's and a shirt that was red,  
Had a ten-gallon Stetson on top of his head.  
As he stepped from the buckboard, he was really a sight,  
With his beard and moustache, so curly and white.  
As he burst in the cabin, the children awoke,  
So astonished were they, that neither one spoke.  
As he filled up their boots with presents galore,  
neither could think of a single thing more.  
When Buddy recovered the use of his jaws,  
e asked in a whisper, "Are you really Santa Claus?"  
"Am I the real Santa? Well, what do you think?"  
And he smiled as he gave a quick little wink.  
Then he leaped on his buckboard, and called back with a drawl,  
"To all the children in Texas, Merry Christmas, Y'all"

Poem Source : Author unknown, there are many versions of this poem.

### Volunteer Hours

*Ed Gonzales*

November Volunteer hours: **492**

Year to date: **5,077**

**Note: Even if you have not submitted your volunteer hours, you may count all the hours you have volunteered since January 1, 2020 and submit the form.**

**Please turn in your volunteer hours. The form is at the end of the newsletter and may be emailed or mailed as indicated on the form.**

### Chapter 2426 Volunteers

Many of our members have continued to volunteer to help others during these difficult times.

**Please send an email and let Diane McGowan, [dianemcg70@gmail.com](mailto:dianemcg70@gmail.com) know how you are volunteering.**

- Helena Hedrick has been helping to wrap presents with **Brown Santa** .
- Connie Flores have been collecting coats for **Coats For Kids** and **calling friends** who are home bound.
- Your chapter 2426 board and chairs have been meeting monthly to continue to plan for the chapter's activities. They provide the articles for the newsletter.
- Diane McGowan has been coordinating the making of quilted bag for **Bags for Hope**. She has solicited volunteers to make the bags for the foster girls entering the New Life Center in Canyon Lake.
- Mary Ragland has help by making bags for **Bags for Hope** for the program. She also keeps us informed with her AARP legislative work.



it with dues payments and changes in personal information for updating the Membership Roster.



SANTA'S SENIOR MOMENT.

## Chapter 2426 Treasurer's Report *Bill Nicholson*

### BALANCE SHEET October 31, 2020

#### Assets

Chapter Checking Account	\$ 2,480.78
Travel Checking Account	376.83
Savings Account	25.00
Receivable from Clark Travel	609.75
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>3,462.34</b>

Liabilities 0.00

**Net Worth** **\$ 3,492.36**

The member dues for 2021 is \$10. Payment is to be mailed with a **Member Renewal form** to the Treasurer during this pandemic time. A payment of dues is acknowledged by either email or postal mail.

Even though the Chapter is not having member meetings in person, payment of dues pays for ongoing expenses such as fees for ZOOM virtual meetings for members and the board of directors; insurance premiums; web site fees; monthly Newsletter costs and administrative supplies.

#### MEMBERSHIP ROSTER CHANGES

Changes in your mailing address, telephone number or email address or changing to dues exempt status when attaining 85 years old are to be submitted on the Membership Renewal form and mailed to:

South Austin AARP Chapter 2426  
Bill Nicholson, Treasurer  
12512 Gun Metal Dr.  
Austin, TX 78739

or emailed changes to [wr.nicholson@outlook.com](mailto:wr.nicholson@outlook.com).

The Membership Renewal form can be found on the last page of this newsletter. Please submit

## 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		512-280-9276and 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

**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	
<b>Advocacy/Legislation/Information/Referral Services</b>		Independent Living: Transportation Services	
<b>Education/Scholarships or other</b>		All Other Volunteer Areas	
Subtotal		Subtotal	
<b>Total Volunteer Hours</b>			

**South Austin AARP Chapter 2426  
Annual Membership Renewal - 2021**

**PLEASE PRINT**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ National AARP Member No. \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (Month and Day) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Anniversary (Month and Day) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address (Print Clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are waived if you are 85 or older: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Complete and mail this renewal with your payment to (checks should be made payable to South Austin AARP Chapter 2426). Dues are \$10.00 by cash or check.

*South Austin AARP Chapter 2426, Bill Nicholson, 12512 Gun Metal Dr., Austin, TX 78739*

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

- |  |   |   |                                      |
|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Program         | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership       | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality    | <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunshine        | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative      | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Serv | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel (ad hoc) | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter     |                                      |