

South Austin AARP

Chapter 2426

Website: www.southaustinaarp.org

April 2021

Wednesday
April 20, 1:00 p.m.
Masters of the Heart



Douglas Barber

Douglas will emphasize the value of relationships (romantic and non). He will give us tips on keeping our relationships emotionally healthy, how to communicate effectively and he will touch on the popular relationship book, "Your Love Language." Douglas will also address how the pandemic has affected our relationships and offer hope to all of us.

Legislative

Mary Ragland

The League of Women Voters Austin Area provides non-partisan voting information for voters in Travis and Williamson Counties.

When do I vote in the upcoming elections?

More information for May 1, 2021

Local Elections will available soon.

Last Day to **Register to Vote: April 1, 2021**

Last Day to **Apply for Ballot By Mail: April 20**

Early Voting: April 19 – April 27

Election Day: Saturday, May 1, 2021

VOTE411.org info will go live no later than April 16

Voters Guide PDFs will be available on LWVAustin.org/voter-guide on April 19th.

8 Propositions on the City of Austin Ballot

Proposition A

This would give the Austin Firefighters Association the ability to require the City to participate in binding arbitration of all issues in dispute with the association, if the City and association reach an impasse in collective bargaining negotiations.

Proposition B

This would reinstate Austin's public camping ban. The proposition would criminalize and create a penalty for those sitting or lying down on a public sidewalk or sleeping outdoors in and near the downtown and University of Texas areas. Another penalty would be created for those camping in a public area not designated by the Austin Parks and Recreation Department.

Additionally, solicitation, or requesting money at specific hours and spots in an aggressive way, will also be criminalized.

Proposition C

This would allow city council to provide for a director of police oversight who shall be appointed and removed as outlined by future ordinance. Duties would include ensuring transparency and accountability in the Austin Police Department's policing.

Proposition D

This is a city charter amendment regarding changes to the dates of mayoral elections. This amendment would change mayoral elections from falling in gubernatorial election years to presidential election years, providing the mayor elected in 2022 will serve just a two-year term. Mayoral elections would then start on the same date as presidential elections in 2024. This city charter amendment would allow for use of ranked choice voting in city elections, if it is permitted by state law.

Proposition E

This city charter amendment would allow for use of ranked choice voting in city elections, if it is permitted by state law.

Proposition F

This city charter amendment would change the city's government from 'council-manager' to 'strong mayor-council.' This would eliminate the role of professional city manager and designate the mayor as the chief administrative and executive officer of the city with veto power over all legislation, including the budget. It would also give the elected mayor authority to hire and fire most department heads and direct staff. There would also not be articulated or stated charter authority to require the mayor to implement council decisions.

Proposition G

This city charter amendment would add another geographic council district, which would result in 11 council members elected from single-member districts.

Proposition H

This city charter amendment would allow for the adoption of a public campaign finance program, which would require the city clerk to provide up to two \$25 vouchers to every registered voter, who may choose to contribute them to candidates running for city office who meet program requirements.

Message from the President

Crespin Guzman

I hope all of you are doing well staying healthy and being safe and now that "**Spring has Sprung**" what a difference the sun makes in making everything brighter and more fun! There even seems to be a "spring" in my step on our daily walks in the neighborhood.

Before we get too far ahead of ourselves, I want to share with you a message in a letter sent out to the leaders of AARP chapters across the US. The office of Volunteer Engagement continues to be a valuable resource for Chapters as we all have been challenged to resume our pre-COVID activities. Ms.

Megan Hookey wrote, "**the decision to suspend all of AARP's in-person activities** was not an easy one but a necessary one to focus on health safety and to avoid confusion about AARP's work in communities." **Currently, the suspension runs until September 1, 2021** and we can expect to be notified of any changes prior to that date.

On the brighter side, we can look forward with more certainty than we've had before to plan with a more realistic target date in mind. This will require coordination with SASAC and others to re-establish our association with them. **So, as a result, it becomes more important to have our Committee Chairs take a greater role in our Board meetings over the next few months.** Your participation will ensure a better and smoother transition to our "**New Normal**".

I want you, the Chapter Leadership, to become a greater part of the "reinvention" of Chapter 2426 because this will also continue the Chapter's position of recognition in the community.

Stay safe.

From Where I sit

*Nancy Crowther, AARP Chapter 2426
Vice-President*

By April 22nd, I will have gotten my second vaccine against COVID-19. Two weeks later I will be creeping out more with my mask on to discover the world again, in tiny pieces. I cannot wait for the feel of fellowship to return. We sure have been good about protecting ourselves and others. It is my hope that we as the 2426 team will slowly and safely be getting together again. Our Chapter has withstood the test of time and we have no word on anyone losing the fight. AARP National says no in-person meetings until September for the rest of the year.

There is a parking lot with lots of greenery, there is a great chance of Roll and Strolls and our monthly gatherings coming together later in the fall. Start with small steps and then we run!

Meanwhile, we have some responsibilities to take of for the rest of the year. Mark your calendars with the voting dates in the Legislative article.

To see the Travis County sample ballots

Click on this link:

https://countyclerk.traviscountytexas.gov/images/pdfs/sample_ballots/sample_ballot.pdf

NOTICE: If you want to vote by mail, you must annually request the Ballot by Mail. Apply for Ballot by mail: April 20

<https://countyclerk.traviscountytexas.gov/elections/balloby-mail.html>

Thank you for doing your part in joining us on our monthly meetings and taking your civic responsibilities seriously. Stay well. Wear your mask and get vaccinated. We will be together soon.

Roll and Stroll and Community Service Committee

Pat Thomas

Although I am not in agreement with the national office advising that we not have any group gatherings until September, in the spirit of harmony, health and hope for future adventures we will abide by the command not to have any group activities prior to September. Please be assured that Austin continues to grow and offer us many new opportunities to explore this beautiful city. I recommend that you use the coming Summer months to improve your life by reading, walking and getting to know your neighbors. I enjoy the Roll & Stroll adventures as much as you do. I am going to take a leave of absence for the next several months. I plan to take an extended vacation and travel to New England. I will be rolling and strolling around the streets of Boston in June. I wish I could take you with me. I will return in August with plans for new Roll and Stroll adventures. If you have ideas for new strolls when we return in September or if you have recommendations on how to serve the community please contact

Pat Thomas at rollandstroll@austin.rr.com

I recommend a few virtual tours of South Austin.

Click on these links to explore:

<http://www.doingthestreets.com/southcongress>

http://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/SCMA_Brochure_07-19.pdf

<https://visitsoco.com>

Visit some South Austin Parks:

Circle C Ranch Metropolitan Park

Circle C on Slaughter Creek offers a variety of trails, volleyball courts, soccer fields, and a large disc golf course. It's a popular spot for pictures of two legged babies to fur babies.

Bauerle Ranch At Slaughter Creek Greenbelt

This hidden gem is the perfect place for hiking, biking, and running. Located only 20 minutes out of downtown in South Austin, it's a great spot for all nature lovers. There has been a lot of deer and other animal sightings have been reported so keep that in mind if you're taking a dog or your kids with you.

Mary Moore Searight Park

This South Austin park features six miles of trails with intermittent fitness stations and hike/ bike/ equestrian trails. The park also many other options including picnics areas, playgrounds, basketball courts, disc golf, volleyball, and a soccer field.

Travel

Mario Macaluso

Fellow Travelers

Spring is here and bluebonnets and Indian Blankets are blooming once again to bring us hope and a sense of rebirth. We are all getting vaccinated and moving a step closer to be able to assemble and to travel again.

At the end of March our enthusiastic Pat Thomas tried the first outing for our members. Roll and Stroll came back to life with a large group that went to Arbor Trails in South Austin to walk around and to eat at Mandola's Italian Restaurant. We felt safe, acted wisely and it was a pleasant healing experience after a year of isolation.

We hope this trend will continue until the time of our monthly meetings and delightful day trips.

Thanks and compliments to our lovely Pat for giving us the chance and encouragement to venture out as a group for the first time since March 2020.

Let us continue to act safely and better times will come our way! Love to all.

2021 Officers *And Committee Chairs*

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

Chapter 2426 Treasurer's Report *Bill Nicholson*

BALANCE SHEET as of March 31, 2021

Assets

Chapter Checking Account	\$ 3585.49
Travel Checking Account	25.00
Savings Account	25.00
Total Assets	3,635.49
Liabilities	0.00
Net Worth	\$ 3,635.49

REMINDER - DUES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2021

The dues is \$10.00 and is payable to South Austin AARP Chapter 2426. Payment is to be mailed with a *Member Renewal* form to the Treasurer during

this pandemic time. A payment will be acknowledged by either email or postal mail.

MEMBERSHIP LIST CHANGES

Changes in your mailing address, telephone number and email address or changing to dues exempt status upon attaining 85 years old are to be submitted to the Treasurer on the *Membership Renewal* form. The *Membership Renewal* form can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

MAILING ADDRESS TO PAY DUES AND SUBMIT THE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

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

Preferred Housing for Seniors Survey

Boomers Collaborative Foundation is a non-profit in the process of developing housing for senior citizens in Austin, TX. Boomers is conducting a survey for Preferred Housing for Seniors. The organization would like input from those who want to downsize and are looking for affordable alternatives to traditional market-rate senior housing in urban areas. You can take the Survey by clicking on this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/11PrP6OiaO_VVTOARx1kplqtqi-SAe5jaSQYVynyyQ7Zg/edit.

Volunteer Hours

Ed Gonzales

Total for March : 920 Hours

Year to date: 1071 Hours

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

Look on the last page of the newsletter for the form.

**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 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 \$10.00 by cash or check

Dues are waived if you are 85 or older: Yes _____

Complete and mail this renewal with your payment to (checks should be made payable to South Austin AARP Chapter 2426).

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 | |