

# South Austin AARP

## Chapter 2426

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

February 2022

**Wednesday**

**February 16, 1:00 p.m.**

**Austin Weather**

February is typically our coldest month in Austin. We had our one-week Arctic blast in February 2021. We had our coldest Arctic blast for the year so far as we had several nights of subfreezing temperatures the first week in February. Join us on our next program meeting on Wednesday, February 16, at 1 pm online on Zoom. We will have a program on Austin weather. Our guest speaker will be one of our local TV meteorologists. Check our monthly program email for details.

**Message from the President**

*Crespin Guzman*

**“So close, yet so far away...”** I am beginning to think that this phrase describes most of our initiatives in the recent past as we try to come together as AARP Chapter. Yet, I keep reminding you to be patient because things will get better and hopefully soon. For a simple example, in terms of socializing, we are now able to do a lot more than a couple of years ago. So that makes it better.

This may be the kind of conversation we are all having with our mirrors at home and if it is, then we must believe it. **I am very proud of what our Chapter leadership group has done** during these very difficult times because we do believe that we can make the difference to make it so. **Another year, yes but not the same -o, same-o.**

**Our 2022 expectations for ourselves continue to be the guiding force behind it.** We want to take the Chapter to new heights in program delivery to the

membership. We thought Zoom would be the answer **but what if we came up with different way(s) to engage the members without having the face-to-face meetings.** We might be looking to scaling back the numbers in order to continue the delivery to members. **For example, I see our Roll and Stroll program leading the way with their most recent efforts in getting our members to get out and do fun stuff!**

**So, help us out and put your thinking cap on.** See what new and different ideas you can come up with to share with your leadership group on **Member retention by engagement, recognition, and appreciation.**

Stay safe.

**Legislative**

*Mary Ragland*

**Texas AARP Staff Closely Watching Texas Voting Procedures**

Our AARP Texas state staff members are keeping a close eye on the way voting is being conducted after the Texas Legislature changed voting laws and procedures. They have issued detailed advice for voters who want to be sure they are allowed to vote and that their votes will be counted. To read their analysis and recommendations, go to: <https://states.aarp.org/texas/election-voting-guide>

**AARP Continuing to Advocate for Lower Drug Prices with President Biden and Congress**

AARP has not given up the fight to ensure lower drug prices for all, and particularly seniors. For information about their activities, go to: <https://www.aarp.org/politics-society/advocacy/info-2021/biden-letter-prescription-drug-costs.html>

**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=72C0157607A290E8614324DEB04FBF17&pagename=Get\\_Involved&intcmp=FTR-LINKS-ACT-ADVOCATE-EWHERE](https://action.aarp.org/site/SPageServer/?jsessionid=00000000.app217a?NONCE_TOKEN=72C0157607A290E8614324DEB04FBF17&pagename=Get_Involved&intcmp=FTR-LINKS-ACT-ADVOCATE-EWHERE)

#### Thank You

Thank you so much for the lovely bouquet of flowers you sent to me, and the many cards and well-wishes after my recent surgery. It is so wonderful to have such loving and thoughtful friends in our chapter. Because of you, our chapter has been, and will continue to be, a community of good friends who care for each other. I am recovering from the surgery and will soon be back to normal.

### Travel

*Mario Macaluso*

#### Fellow Members

I admire you all for the resiliency and strong will you have demonstrated during the past two years of pandemics.

You have held steadfast waiting eagerly for the day we can do again those things that we took for granted.

I hope that in 2022 we will be able to get together once again to share the gift of each other's presence and enjoy our day trips. As we wait for such a day, I like to share three thoughts that I hope will help us to keep positive, hopeful, and strong:

1. Do not take everything for granted. All can change. All can end and all can begin.
2. To appreciate who we are and what we have is the first step towards happiness.
3. When you change the way you look at things what you look at will change.

Spring will be coming soon. May the new season bring good feelings of hope and more freedom from Covid for us and the world!

Love to all.

## Roll and Stroll and Community Service Committee

*Pat Thomas*

#### ROLL AND STROLL NEWS

Deborah and Pat met with CapMetro representatives, JoAnn Ortiz and Jesse Marroquin, to discuss plans for the coming year. We are continuing to work on a location for a brief pop-up session to make it easier to obtain a senior ID card. With a CapMetro senior ID cards seniors can ride the bus for \$1.25. There is an application online but we felt it would be faster and more efficient to arrange for a live pop-up issuing event. We spoke about bus routes in South Austin and learned about a program called "PickUp" service which provides on-demand transit service within a specific neighborhood service zone. With the PickUp App customers can hail a ride at the same cost as a regular bus. A PickUp shuttle bus will pick you up at your home and transport you to a spot within your neighborhood zone. <https://www.capmetro.org/pickup-faq/> Currently in South Austin there is only one PickUp zone available located in the Oak Hill area. We expressed our wish to have additional zones available in South Austin. We continued our conversation expressing our desire to create a Northside Roll & Stroll. CapMetro staff is willing to come to senior centers, residential centers, church organizations to explain how to use public transportation.



Deborah and I have many ideas for Roll & Stroll activities but we are being cautious until Covid continues to decrease. We are still tentatively planning a Feb. 16th stroll to celebrate Asian Lunar New Year at the AISD performing arts center. We also want to explore the new Waterloo Park and a stroll to the expanded Republic Square Farmers Market when the weather warms. I could fill this whole page with exciting places to visit in 2022. Since we have been out of circulation for two years we have a lot of catching up to do. Keep dreaming about our next adventure.

Note:

I am putting this on our bucket list for a Roll & Stroll: It is an amazing place for anyone who needs craft, sewing, painting, fabric, ribbon.

It is a thrift store for creative individuals. Also near by is a restaurant called "Hanks", lots of comfort food

I've been there and I'm headed there now.

Note: that crafters may also donate craft goods that you do not need to the store.

<https://austincreativeuse.org/visit>

### From Where I sit

*Nancy Crowther, AARP Chapter 2426  
Vice-President*

This is a new year. We are very proud of our members who have stuck it out and had the opportunity to join us on zoom. As a Board member I have a responsibility to you to be well informed, entertained, and social. Unfortunately, everything is on zoom but, I am thankful for having some means to see familiar faces and share a laugh or two. The monthly programs are meant to keep us in the same boat. If the boat is getting off-kilter, please let us know. Laura and Randy go to a great deal of work to get guest speakers for each month. We want to see you as well as our speakers. Do try to make it to our meetings.

### Groundhog Day

February 2, when the groundhog is said to come out of its hole at the end of hibernation. If the animal sees its shadow—i.e., if the weather is sunny—it is said to portend six weeks more of winter weather. That is what happened this year—six more weeks of winter. Also, a

situation in which a series of unwelcome or tedious events appear to be recurring in the same way. "She lived an unrelenting Groundhog Day of laundry, shopping, and rearing us kids"

### Presidents' Day History, Folklore, and More

This year, Presidents' Day is Monday, February 21! Which presidents do we celebrate on Presidents' Day? And why do we commonly call it "Presidents' Day" when the observed federal holiday is officially called "Washington's Birthday"? Learn the history of this day—and the truth about a few common George Washington myths.

Is This Holiday Called Presidents' Day or Washington's Birthday?

Although the holiday is most often referred to as "Presidents' Day," the observed federal holiday is officially called "Washington's Birthday."

Neither Congress nor the President has ever stipulated that the name of the holiday observed as Washington's Birthday be changed to Presidents' Day. Additionally, Congress has never declared a national holiday that is binding in all states; each state has the freedom to determine its own legal holidays. This is why there are some calendar discrepancies when it comes to this holiday's date. Read more from the National Archives.

So why is Washington's Birthday commonly called Presidents' Day?

In a sense, calling the holiday Presidents' Day helps us to reflect on not just the first president, but also the founding of our nation, its values, and what Washington calls in his Farewell Address the "beloved Constitution and union, as received from the Founders." Additionally, Abraham Lincoln's birthday is in February (on the 12th), so by calling the holiday "Presidents' Day," we can include another remarkable president in our celebrations as well.

Today, many calendars list the third Monday of February as Presidents' Day, just as quite a few U.S. states do, too. Of course, all the 3-day retail store sales are called "Presidents' Day" sales and this vernacular has also been influential in how we reference the holiday.

Presidents' Day is observed annually on the third Monday in February. In 2022, Presidents' Day will be celebrated on Monday, February 21. ~~from the National Archives.

### A Proclamation on National Black History Month, 2022

JANUARY 31, 2022 From the White House

Each February, National Black History Month serves as both a celebration and a powerful reminder that Black history is American history, Black culture is American

culture, and Black stories are essential to the ongoing story of America — our faults, our struggles, our progress, and our aspirations. Shining a light on Black history today is as important to understanding ourselves and growing stronger as a Nation as it has ever been. That is why it is essential that we take time to celebrate the immeasurable contributions of Black Americans, honor the legacies and achievements of generations past, reckon with centuries of injustice, and confront those injustices that still fester today. Our Nation was founded on an idea: that all of us are created equal and deserve to be treated with equal dignity throughout our lives. It is a promise we have never fully lived up to but one that we have never, ever walked away from. The long shadows of slavery, Jim Crow, and redlining — and the blight of systemic racism that still diminishes our Nation today — hold America back from reaching our full promise and potential. But by facing those tragedies openly and honestly and working together as one people to deliver on America's promise of equity and dignity for all, we become a stronger Nation — a more perfect version of ourselves. Across the generations, countless Black Americans have demonstrated profound moral courage and resilience to help shape our Nation for the better. Today, Black Americans lead industries and movements for change, serve our communities and our Nation at every level, and advance every field across the board, including arts and sciences, business and law, health and education, and many more. In the face of wounds and obstacles older than our Nation itself, Black Americans can be seen in every part of our society today, strengthening and uplifting all of America.

Vice President Harris and I are deeply committed to advancing equity, racial justice, and opportunity for Black Americans as we continue striving to realize America's founding promise. That began by building a Federal Government that looks like America: including the first Black Secretary of Defense, the first Black woman to head the Office of Management and Budget, the first Black man to lead the Environmental Protection Agency, the first Black woman to lead the Department of Housing and Urban Development in more than 40 years, the first Black chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisors, a Black Ambassador representing America at the United Nations, and the first Black and South Asian Vice President in our history. We have been proud to appoint accomplished Black Americans to serve in a vast array of roles across our Administration. I am prouder

still to have already nominated eight Black women to serve as Federal appellate judges — matching in just 1 year the total number of Black women who have ever served on Federal appeals courts. My Administration has worked hard to reverse decades of underinvestment in Black communities, schools, and businesses. Both the American Rescue Plan and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law are making historic investments in Black America — from vaccine shots in arms to checks in families' pockets and tax cuts for working families with children to a landmark \$5.8 billion investment in and support for Historically Black Colleges and Universities. And in my first year in office, the American Rescue Plan provided the full Child Tax Credit to the lower income families of more than 26 million children — who are disproportionately Black — and put us on a path to cut Black child poverty in half. As the Infrastructure Law continues to be implemented, we will expand on that progress. Lead service lines that have contaminated the water of too many homes and schools in Black communities will be removed and replaced. We will deliver high-speed internet to every community so that no Black family is left behind in the 21st century economy. Historic investments in public transportation will help more people in more neighborhoods get to where good jobs actually are quickly and safely. We will reconnect Black neighborhoods cut off from opportunity by highways that were built to brush them aside. Long-standing environmental injustices that have hit Black communities the hardest will be remediated. We will deliver major investments in Black entrepreneurs and small businesses — including making the Minority Business Development Agency permanent and seeding it with a record \$110 million in new resources to help level the playing field for Black businesses.

But this is only the start. To fulfill America's promise for all, we will work tirelessly in the year ahead to deliver on my Build Back Better agenda, bringing down the costs that families face on child care, housing, education, health care, prescription drugs, and so much more. We will continue to battle the COVID-19 pandemic with equity at the center of our response. We will not rest until we have protected the foundation of our democracy: the sacred right to vote. And we will fight to keep dismantling all of those structural inequities that have served as barriers for Black families for generations. As we celebrate National Black History Month, let us all recommit ourselves to reach for that founding



promise. Let us continue to fight for the equity, opportunity, and dignity to which every Black American is due in equal measure. Let us carry forward the work to build an America that is, in the beautiful words of the poet Amanda Gorman, "Bruised, but whole — benevolent, but bold, fierce, and free." NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim February 2022 as National Black History Month. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-sixth. JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.

**Volunteer Hours**  
*Ed Gonzales*

January 2022: **78**  
Year to date: **78**  
*Slim pickings this time. Late submittals received after today will be put on next month's total...*

**Total for 2020 : 3,520 Hours**

**Please send or email your number of volunteer hours. Look on the last page of the newsletter for the form.**

**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
<u>Savings Account</u>	<u>25.00</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>3,635.49</b>
<u>Liabilities</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Net Worth</b>	<b>\$ 3,635.49</b>

**REMINDER - DUES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2022**

The dues are \$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

**2022 Officers**  
*And Committee Chairs*

**Officers**

President: Crespin Guzman 737-222-8155  
Vice President: Nancy Crowther 512-808-7486  
Secretary: Ed Gonzales 512-444-3335  
Treasurer: Bill Nicholson 512-481-8464  
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: Vacant  
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 - 2022**

**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     |                                      |