South Austin AARP
Chapter 2426

Website: **southaustinaarp.org**

March 2023

Wednesday
March 15, 1:30 p.m.
Water Forward

Water Forward is Austin's 100-year integrated water resource plan. Water Forward is an adaptive plan to be updated on a 5-year cycle and evaluates and plans for water supply and demand management strategies for the City of Austin in a regional water supply context.

The current Water Forward Plan was approved by the Austin City Council in November 2018 and is currently in the implementation stage. The 2018 plan embraced an innovative and integrated water management process with the goal of ensuring a diversified, sustainable and resilient water future with a strong emphasis on water conservation.

Join AARP Chapter 2426 on Wednesday. March 15 at 1:30 to hear more about Water Forward. There will be a 30-45 minute presentation followed by a short Q&A. The City of Austin representative is not available at press time. A speaker bio will be emailed to members prior to the meeting.

Membership

Shirley Paz and Isabel Moreno-Orta

Welcome to all members old and new! **Reminder:March is the last Month to pay your $10 dues for 2023.** Any delinquent dues will have the member removed from the 2023 Membership roster. Newsletters and announcements will only be sent to members who are current members. Your name will be added back to the membership when you pay your dues. We are trying hard to keep up with our membership as we also try to keep our budget available for Chapter activities. **Tip:** Invite a friend to attend the chapter gatherings, share your newsletters with other groups you are active with, get on your local NextDoor and announce the next meeting and know that you are doing your part to introduce friends and neighbors to our Chapter 2426.

Chapter 2426 Treasurer's Report

Bill Nicholson

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The membership as of February 24 totals 167 of which 24 are exempt from paying dues.

The following are **new members** joining in February: Mary Edmonson, Alejandra Flores, and Suzanne Legeer and welcome back to Gail Glick. Look for them at the next meeting and welcome them.

Please bring your AARP membership card to the next couple meetings so those attending the meeting sign-in table can compare it with the number and thru date on our chapter Membership Roster. The chapter is required by AARP to have on file the AARP Membership ID Number and current Valid Thru date for each chapter member.

2022 FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

We all are receiving by postal mail and email many requests to pay not only our AARP dues, but also contribute for AARP advocacy support and contribute to the AARP Foundation.

So, I remind you that AARP and chapters such our Chapter 2426 are nonprofit social welfare organizations tax exempt under Federal Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(4). The dues and contributions to AARP and our chapter are not tax deductible for federal tax purposes because of the IRS Code section.

But if you contribute to the AARP Foundation, which is a nonprofit charitable organization tax exempt under IRS Code 501(c)(3), your contribution may be deductible for federal income tax purposes.

You have probably seen this information on the forms and mailing envelopes of AARP and its Foundation.

DUES OF $10 FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023

A reminder that dues can be paid in person at the membership meeting March 15. Checks are payable to *South Austin AARP Chapter 2426.* And of course, currency is accepted.

Dues pay for meeting expenses, donations, committee expenses, monthly newsletter, web site fee, postage, insurance required by AARP and State filing fees. We are fortunate, there is no fee paid for our meetings held in the South Austin Senior Activity Center.

MEMERSHIP ROSTER CHANGES

Changes of your postal or email address, telephone number or changing to dues exempt status upon attaining 85 years can be provided on the *Membership Renewal or Updating Information* form found on the last page of the newsletter or available at a meeting sign-in or treasurer tables.

MAILING ADDRESS for DUES PAYMENTS and THE RENEWAL OR CHANGE IN INFORMATION FORM

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

Message from the President

Crespin Guzman

March is already upon us and the weather continues to change often enough to keep us on our toes, so I hope there is something you like with each change that occurs. As I have said before, I am the perennial optimist and so I look at March somewhat color blindly because if you like "green" then perhaps you are a fan of St. Patrick's Day and all its celebratory activity that goes with it. But what if you like it windy and breezy, then perhaps the beginning of Spring raises your energy level by being out during sunny and bright days. **Either way, I hope March will be enjoyable to you!** As for me, *I am green with envy anytime I see someone having a good time!*

However, to me Spring brings with it greater hope for a ***"renewal"*** of sorts and as far as the Chapter is concerned, I see us continuing to grow with more members, having more fun and enjoying the ***"fruits of their labor"*** that our Committee Chairs and BoD are presenting for you to engage in. Whether it is Day Trips or Roll & Stroll events, they should all seem brighter than before to you ***just for being part of them.*** But there is still more to enjoy as we implement some of the changes coming to ***our hospitality at special events and during regular meetings.*** So, keep your eyes and ears open for the latest news on that front.

Then there is SASAC and its Great Leadership Staff making available so many activities ***FREE*** to anyone that registers with them. I encourage you to find out for yourself how they can brighten up your day in many other ways. Not only that, *they are there for you all the time!* Our Chapter is proud to have them as a Community Partner! So next time you see one of the staffers, ***let them know we appreciate their efforts.***

Stay healthy, safe and engaged with us but do enjoy **Our Renewal**!

Travel

Mario Macaluso

Dear Members

Mark your calendars: **The day trip to Bellville, Texas, to visit the castle with lunch included, is scheduled for Tuesday, April 25, 2023.**

Departure at 8 am from the Seniors Center.
Check- in at 7:30 am
Please park away from the main entrance.
Everyone must wear a name tag. Notify Rosie if anyone is on gluten free diet.

At the March meeting we will announce the destination and date of our next day trip.

Sign up in person will take place at the
at meeting. If absent you may send your check with someone who attends the meeting or by mailing it to Rosie who must receive it ahead of the meeting.

We need a firm commitment to cover all expenses and to protect me as I sign the contract.

We want to thank you for cooperating and keeping alive the day trips.

Rosie and I are doing all we can to make day trips, organized, educational and fun.

Keep healthy and safe.

Mario Macaluso, Chair
Rosie Perez, Co-Chair

Volunteer Hours

Ed Gonzales

Total for February : 259 Hours
Year to Date 705 Hours

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

Roll and Stroll and Community Service Committee

Pat Thomas

A group of 22 individuals enjoyed the musical play "Godspell" at St. Edwards University. A high energy performance of music and dance. I ask that we all remember some of the words to the music as we enter the contemplative period of lent. "Let Your Light Shine" I interpert that to mean be kind, forgiving and patient with all in your life. For more lyrics you can view: https://www.allthelyrics.com/lyrics/godspell_soundtrack/save_the_people-lyrics-76601.html.

Deborah and I have looked at the calendar for March and April. We want to stay away from downtown during South by Southwest festival (3/10 - 3/19) So for March we are recommending a simple pop-up stroll to a scenic area. (Pop-up means we cannot give you a date or place because it depends on the weather) Yes, a restaurant or picnic is always included. Currently for April 6th, Thursday, we are tentatively planning on traveling to the new HEB at the corner of Exposition & Lake Austin Blvd. This two story HEB features a restaurant on the second floor with views of Lady Bird Lake and we might include a PickUp ride to Laguna Gloria sculpture garden.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT - THE SETTLEMENT HOME FOR CHILDREN

The Settlement Home for Children is a charitable organization that serves individuals who have experienced severe emotional trauma, abuse and neglect. Their mission is to promote healing and growth in children, young adults and families by providing a continuum of care, support and resources.

Once a year they hold a gigantic garage sale at the Palmer Events Center. More than 10,000 shoppers flock to this event to get their hands on unique items and bargain-priced merchandise. The event is usually the first weekend in November. **Sooo...your wild and crazy Pat and Deborah are asking you to bring two items from your home that you want to get rid of to the March 15th and the April 19th meeting.** More info will be sent to you prior to these dates. The items will be delivered to their warehouse on the near Northside.

This charity cannot accept items that are unsellable. Stained, torn, damaged, broken, chipped, cracked, foul-smelling, dangerous, toxic or illegal items such items will not be accepted. (and Pat and Deborah are unwilling to put such items in the truck of their car)

https://www.settlementhome.org/garage-sale/

From Where I sit

Nancy Crowther, AARP Chapter 2426 Vice-President

All Aboard Meet CapMetro

All day, every day, members of the CapMetro family are committed to helping our friends and neighbors get where they need to go safely and reliably.

You already know many on the team. There are the bus operators you see each morning on the way to work and in the evening on the way home. The CapMetro Rail, Access and Pickup operators are easily spotted as well. But there are many others you don't see or recognize who help the system run. The Facilities crew keeps vehicles and stops clean, dispatchers handle communications from various departments, Transit Store workers sell passes and Customer Service helps patrons with wayfinding, tracking lost items, reporting maintenance requests and more. The list goes on and on. That's why CapMetro is proud to roll out a new feature: #MeetCapMetro Monday. Look for it on occasional Mondays throughout the year. Want to get

to know the CapMetro team a little better? Check out the new blog series, "Meet CapMetro," over at thnew http://waypointblog.com. Learn about how these transit professionals got started and more!

Look at Project Connect Focus Groups

Last month, the Project Connect team hosted seven focus groups with the community to hear thoughts and feedback on light rail community evaluation criteria and key destinations to help the design team in the coming months. Thank you to all of the community members that participated in the focus groups. Our team received valuable feedback through meaningful discussions with the community. The top 3 evaluation criteria were:

- Affordability Benefits – "Are we serving existing and planned affordable housing units?"

Access to affordable housing is an important consideration for a future transit system in Austin.

- Access to Key Destinations – "How many jobs, special events, education centers and other destinations are served by the light rail train?"
  - Desire to increase public transit access points in Austin to serve more communities.
- Demographic Data – "How many groups, including transit dependent, Black/Indigenous/People of Color, and low-income populations have access to the light rail train, to ensure the system is equitable for all?"
  - Access to public transportation in low-income communities is an important consideration for inclusive future transit.

The Project Connect team found this data to be extremely valuable and will be using this data to help best inform how we move forward when looking at options for the future of light rail

The list goes on and on. That's why CapMetro is proud to roll out a new feature: #MeetCapMetro Monday. Look for it on occasional Mondays throughout the year. Want to get to know the CapMetro team a little better? Check out the new blog series, "Meet CapMetro," at http://waypointblog.com. Learn about how these transit professionals got started and more!

March 15 Meeting Reminders:

- **Pay 2023 Dues**
- **If you would like to help with snacks, bring commercially prepared individually wrapped snacks.**
- **Bring Volunteer Form to Ed Gonzales**

2023 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
Assistant Treasurer:	Rosie Perez	512-440-7050

Board of Directors (in addition to officers):
Wanda Hasley 512-280-9276
Marie Martinez 512-276-4771

Committee Chairs

Community Service:	Pat Thomas	512- 441-1485
	Deborah Fennell	512-282-9931
Health:	Laura Dutton	512-740-9370
	Gail Glick	214-808-6622
Hospitality:	Connie Flores	512-536-0694
Legislative:	Vacant	
Membership:	Shirley Paz	512-689-7123
	Isabel Moreno-Orta	512-554-5338
Newsletter Editor and Web Manager:		
	Diane McGowan	512-923-3218
Program:	Randy Hsi,	512-663-8196
Phone Committee Chair:		
	Elaine Benton	512- 799-2224
Sunshine:	Kathryn Stone	512-673-9705
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	
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

Check one: __ New Member Application __ Renewal of Membership __ Update/change Information

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Address _____

City _____State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number (_____) _____

E-mail Address (Print Clearly) _____

*AARP Member No. _____ Valid Thru (Month & Year) _____ /_____

**(Found on your red membership card)*

Birthday (Month and Day) _____ /_____ Anniversary (Month and Day) _____ /_____

Signature _____ Date _____

Dues are $10.00 paid by cash or check. Dues are waived if you are 85 or older: Yes, I am _____.

Complete and give this form with your payment to the Treasurer (checks payable to South Austin AARP Chapter 2426).

OR mail this form with your payment to:

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

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

____ Program ____ Membership ____ Hospitality ____ Telephone
____ Sunshine ____ Legislative ____ Community Serv ____ Health Care
____ Travel (ad hoc) ____ Public Relations ____ Newsletter