South Austin AARP
Chapter 2426

Website: **southaustinaarp.org**

April 2023

Wednesday
April 19, 1:30 p.m.
Austin Transit Partnership

Join us at our next South Austin AARP Chapter 2426 to kick off the next round of community engagement as we move forward with implementing light rail in Austin. There will be updates on the light rail system from the Austin Transit Partnership (ATP), what's next for Project Connect. Updates will include the latest from the Austin Light Rail Open House on March 21. Representatives from the Austin Transit Partnership will present.

Message from the President
Crespin Guzman

While we were in between meetings, Spring has sprung and along with it comes the Chapter's continuing Renewal effort in 2023. So, I would like to remind you about the *5 W's;* ***Who, What, When, Where and Why.***

Who: You and I and all the other members of our Chapter.

What: First, our meetings, both Board meetings and General Membership meetings and all the other Chapter/Committee planned activities going forward.

When: Every month of the year at different times and places, except for our monthly General Membership meetings at 1:30pm on the 3rd Wednesday at SASAC. This will not change in the foreseeable future.

Where: Could be anywhere in town or out of town, except for our monthly General Membership Meetings at SASAC.

Why: We need to establish ways to keep us engaged with our community but primarily with ourselves, the members!

It may sound like there is a lot going on and it is a lot. However, we try to make it easy for you, the Members, to stay on top of things by providing the newsletter regularly. *So, if you want to know what's up or coming down, then you must read it.* ENJOY!!!

Have a great day!

Travel
Mario Macaluso

Announcing the day trip on June 22, 2023 to the historic city of Gonzales where the first skirmishes between Mexican soldiers and early Texian settlers opened the war that led to Texas Independence on March 2, 1836.

Sign up is at the next monthly meeting on April 19, 2023.

If you wish to participate you must sign up in person or send your check with someone who is attending the meeting or make sure Rosie receives your check by the time she gets to the April meeting.

We need between 35 and 40 participants to cover expenses.

Your participation will be crucial to the future of day trips for our chapter.

Write check to AARP Chapter 2426 for $65 per person(pp)

Lunch on your own.

Date of day trip: June 22, 2023

We will visit the Court House, the Jail Museum and the J. B. Wells House. The Tourist Office will make our tour special. Do not miss it!

More details will follow if the trip will take place.

Please sign up. Your participation will make a difference!

Thank you all!

Mario Macaluso, Chair

Rosie Perez, Co-Chair

Remember: You must have paid your 2023 dues to participate in the Day trips.

Roll and Stroll and Community Service Committee

Pat Thomas

COMMUNITY SERVICE
THE SETTLEMENT HOME FOR CHILDREN

Please remember to bring two items to donate to the Settlement Home For Children at our April meeting. I delivered the items we collected last month and was amazed at the size of the 10 acre complex that serves children and families who have experienced severe emotional trauma, abuse and neglect. I learned about the long history of this charitable organization which was established by 12 Austin women in 1916. Originally located at 304 E. 1st street with the goal of providing a day nursery for impoverished working families. It has changed locations several times and expanded services. 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. The event is usually the first weekend in November. Please bring two donated items to our meeting on April 19th. *This charity cannot accept items that are unsellable. Please no 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 unsellable items in the truck of their cars.)

ROLL AND STROLL NOTES

We will soon send out an alert on scheduled activities. Because of Easter and poor weather we have not been able to engage in activities. I have been volunteering with CapMetro to teach residents of my senior complex how to use a transportation service called PickUp. It operates like Uber but at a very low price for seniors living in a PickUp zone. In south Austin PickUp is only available in North Oak Hill and South Menchaca. https://www.capmetro.org/docs/default-source/riders-guide-docs/our-services-docs/pickup-docs/zone-maps/pickup-south-menchaca-map.pdf?sfvrsn=202b3e69_4

Volunteer Hours

Ed Gonzales

Total for March 643 Hours

Year to Date:1,063 Hours

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

From Where I sit

Nancy Crowther, AARP Chapter 2426 Vice-President

88th Legislative Session—bills aimed at seniors

The legislative session is a place to call your representatives. Visits would be great! For peace of mind in your quest to stay active in your home and community Home and Community-Based Services need your support. Community Attendants are making a dismal $8.11 an hour to assist you in your home. Talk to your legislator to support a $15 base hourly wage for those whom we depend upon to be able to remain independent in OUR homes. Time is of the essence.

Strolling news

The City of Austin recently completed safety and mobility improvements at the William Cannon Drive intersection with Elm Creek Drive, including high-visibility crosswalks, ADA-compliant curb ramps, and a new pedestrian hybrid beacon (PHB). People walking or biking can activate the new signal by pressing a button when they want to cross William Cannon Drive. When the signal is not activated, people driving along William Cannon Drive can flow through the intersection without stopping.

This project is part of the 2016 Mobility Bond-funded Corridor Construction Program (CCP). Other CCP projects currently in construction along the William Cannon Drive corridor include new signalized intersections at Sunstrip Drive and Bannockburn Drive, and two new PHBs at Lost Valley and the Stephenson Nature Preserve. Phased construction of additional multi-modal mobility and safety improvements along the William Cannon Drive corridor will occur over the next few years. To learn more about these projects,
visit AustinTexas.gov/WilliamCannon. For information about the latest construction-related closures,
visit www.austintexas.gov/atxcorridorconstruction.

Have you noticed anything new on the Shoal Creek Trail lately? The Urban Trails Program is nearing completion on a project to install 125 wayfinding signs along 9.5 miles of trail between Lady Bird Lake and the Northern Walnut Creek Trail!

Volunteers Needed.

As Cres and I have been mentioning over the last couple of meetings, we need volunteers to take on some of the duties of the board and committees as we continue throughout the remainder of 2023.
We need an assistant board secretary, a nominations committee, greeters,
website editor, a newsletter/email communications coordinator/ assistant and wherever you can help. We have a great chapter and it is **you** who make it that way. Come lend a hand. See the below for a list of the positions and current volunteers, emails, and phone numbers. We look forward to continuing our chapter adventures onward to 2024.

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

Chapter 2426 Treasurer's Report
Bill Nicholson

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION
The membership as of the March 22 meeting totals 168 of which 24 are exempt from paying dues. There were 62 members who attended the March 22 meeting.
Please bring your RED AARP membership card to the meeting 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.
And a big AND, if you are not sure you have paid your 2023 calendar year dues, visit with me in person, by email (wr.nicholson@outlook.com), telephone 512-481-8464, or the mailing address shown at the end of this article. Fifty (50) members still owe calendar year 2023 dues.

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.
By the way, if you are exempt from paying dues, you must submit each year a Membership Renewal form so any changes can be entered in the Membership Roster.
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.

Recycle and Help the Food Pantry

Thank you to all who are donating the **large, plastic HEB grocery bags** and egg cartons. We really appreciate your generosity.
Due to limited storage space, we will continue to accept **1-dozen sized styrofoam egg cartons** only--they stack well and can easily be cut in halves. (We have a difficult time getting enough eggs and, therefore, distribute them by half-dozen.)
We thank you, and Mother Earth thanks you for recycling.
Diane Wright
St. Ignatius Food Pantry

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