

AARP Chapter 2426

Minutes from the January 15th, 2020 Meeting

President Crespin Guzman called the meeting to order and lead the Pledge of Allegiance at 1:00 PM.

Announcements: The next regular Chapter meeting will be on February 19th, 2020 and the next Board meeting will be on January 21st, 2020, at 10:00am at the Menchaca Branch of the Austin Public Library.

OLD BUSINESS

Crespin reported that a meeting was held on January 14th, 2020 at the State Offices of the AARP to discuss the future of the Annual CLO Meeting and AARP Day. Due to a lack of a quorum present, the decision was tabled to be addressed at a future meeting to be held in February. One of the proposals up for consideration is that perhaps each local chapter would organize their own AARP day.

Minutes: Secretary Ed Gonzales asked if there were any revisions or corrections to the minutes as published in the recent newsletter. **A motion was requested to approve the minutes as corrected. Diane McGowan so moved and it was seconded by Rita Furbish.**

Crespin reported that at the next Board meeting, we will want to discuss potential changes to the various committees in order to be more effective and to possibly increase coordination and expertise sharing among the various committees in order to become more effective.

Chapter 2426 Officers and Board Members

The new Chapter officers and Board members gave a brief overview of their responsibilities. The new officers are: They are: President: **Crespin Guzman**, Vice President: **Nancy Crowther**, Secretary: **Ed Gonzales**, Assistant Secretary: **Marilyn Totten**, Treasurer: **Bill Nicholson**, and Assistant Treasurer: **Rosie Perez**. The new Board Members are: **Wanda Hensley** and **Maria Martinez**.

PROGRAM

Tabitha Taylor, Age-Friendly Action Plan Program Coordinator for the City of Austin, assisted by **Jane Briesmeister**, **Peter Varteressian** and **Diana Spain** gave a brief overview and follow-up to a recent presentation and then sought Chapter members input on senior issues in Austin. A survey was presented to the members asking for their thoughts regarding topics that impact their daily life. A subsequent presentation will be held in the future to discuss those issues.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Attendance and Membership Committee

Joanne Cepero announced that today we have 2 guests, 7 new members since our last meeting and had a total of 91 attendees present. We now have well over 250 members. **Joanne** is the new chair of this committee, taking over from **Margaret Hughes**, who has held this position for years and is a long time chapter member. **Margaret** is moving to Llano and Chapter 2426 wishes her the all the very best and we thank her for her many years of service.

Community Service Committee

Deborah Fennell reported the following information regarding upcoming **Roll and Stroll** events:

Monday Jan. 20th LBJ Motown Exhibit. We will depart Westgate Transit center at 11:00 with lunch prior to our tour of the Motown Exhibit. I don't know if we will have a docent led tour but the exhibit is self explanatory. Try to remember where you were in 1965 and what was your favorite song. Weather may be cloudy but rain is unlikely. If weather is bad we will reschedule for the 24th. Want to listen to some Motown Music before we go on our Roll - Try Pandora at:

<https://www.pandora.com/playlist/PL:1125899919519155:1731281313>

We will eat at Einstein Bagels on the UT drag prior to continuing on our route to LBJ. Deborah and Pat have the route all planned out for an enjoyable stroll.

<https://www.einsteinbros.com/menu/>

Saturday Feb 1st - Oakwood Cemetery Tour

We will depart Westgate Transit Center at 11:00 a.m. and eat lunch prior to enjoying a unique tour of the cemetery at 2 p.m. Oakwood Cemetery was originally established on 10 acres as the City Cemetery in 1839, the same year the City of Austin was established. Today, the oldest municipal cemetery in the city has more than 23,000 burials on 40 acres and hosts a beautifully rehabilitated 1914 Chapel that serves as the Visitor Center. Because of historical racial customs prevailing in the early days of the cemetery, Negroes and Mexicans were buried in areas separate from the white people. Mexican burials generally occurred along the fence lines on the outer boundaries of the cemetery. Paupers were also buried along the fence lines. Two separate burial grounds for Jewish people have been set aside in section I and II. Our tour will include a walking history and cultural event to honor Tejanos buried in the cemetery.

Sunday Feb 16th -Lunar Chinese New Year Festival

Austin Chinese Culture Festival will be held on February 16. The Festival is supported by the Austin Cultural Arts Division and will take place at the AISD Performing Arts Center. The Festival will be an all-day event consisting of a wide variety of cultural booths, diverse cultural showcases (put on by local community members), a food market offering 50+ crowd-favorite dishes. Because food is available at the event we will not make an additional lunch stop. We will depart Westgate Transit Center at 11:00 a.m. on bus #803 and transfer to #10 which takes us to the Mueller area. Last year we enjoyed this event very much. We should return home by 5:00 pm.

Coming in March: A guided tour of the State Capitol with lunch in the delightful cafeteria. No date has yet been selected.

Learn about the history of this building. Impress your friends with your knowledge: Did you know that when it was first constructed, the Texas State Capitol was billed as the seventh largest building in the world.

RSVP to Deborah Fennell via Text at 512-915-8414. Text “Y” to confirm. or Email: djfenn5353@gmail.com

Sunshine Committee

The committee chair was not present so next month, we will honor both January and February Birthdays and Anniversaries

Health Committee

Randy Hsi reported that there are several health related programs planned for 2020, and that February is Heart Health month. He also reminded the members that there will be a resource table located at the back of the meeting room with various handouts and pertinent information covering many aspects of health.

Travel Committee

Mario Macaluso reported that next trip will be to visit the **The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) Institute of Texan Cultures** which is a museum and library located in HemisFair Park in Downtown San Antonio, Texas. It serves as the state's primary center for multicultural education, with exhibits, programs, and events in celebration of the many ethnicities that make up the population of Texas. Also planned is a visit with the option to have lunch at the Tower of the Americas, a **750-foot** observation tower-revolving restaurant that was built as the theme structure of the 1968 World's Fair. As before, there will be time for shopping and site seeing along the River Walk.

Remember: Bring your aluminum ring tabs to **Rita Furbish** for the Ronald McDonald House.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25pm

Ed Gonzales,

Recording Secretary

APPROVED (February 19th, 2020)

