President Pete Skalnik called the meeting to order at 10:00 am

Announcements: The next Regular Chapter meeting will be on February 15th, 2017, @ 1:00PM at the South Austin Senior Activity Center. The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday March 22, 2017 @ 10:00 AM at the Manchaca Road Branch of the Austin Public Library.

Minutes: The minutes of the November 8th, 2016 Board Meeting were read and approved.

Old and New Business:

Pete Skalnik noted that Chapter 2426 attendance at the annual CLO (Chapter Leadership Orientation) meeting was fairly sparse this year. He also said the all Board members should have a current (2014) copy of the AARP Handbook, if not he will get one for you.

At issue at the CLO was discussion of the three primary priorities of AARP for this coming year. They are: 1) Caregiver Services; 2) Surprise Medical Bills and 3) Protection of the Finances of Seniors. We will try to get speakers to address these issues in upcoming chapter meetings.

In conjunction with this, Mary Ragland said that we should notify Jessica Lemann, Associate Director for Advocacy and Outreach, AARP Texas, if we wish to be e-advocates for pertinent issues coming before the current Texas legislature.

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee: Margaret Hughes reported that there are now 176 members, including 12 new members.

Treasurers Report: Caryn Gulas reported that the Checking balance was $1908.43; Travel money was $ 344.20; Chapter funds were $1564.23 and the Savings account balance was $ 25.00 She stated that 2017 dues of $10.00 need to be paid by the end of February. She also discussed the 2016 final budget and proposed the new 2017 budget (attached to these minutes). She also stated that the travel funds will be held in a separate account and these new accounts will be opened today after the board meeting. A motion to approve the creation of the new accounts as well as the proposed 2017 budget was made by Ray Vaughn and seconded by Mary Ragland. The motion carried by unanimous vote.
Program Committee: Pete announced that there is a new Program Chairperson: Katherine Stone, and that the program for February will be a presentation on Capital City Village. Barbara Kaiser explained that this organization is involved in not only in-home assistance, but also deals with other social events and in keeping seniors involved in the community. Pete also said he had spoken to a member of AARP Chapter 2700 who deals with electronic information technology and that he had made a presentation regarding what should be done with all of your stored computerized data in the event of your death. Pete will see if that person might be interested in addressing our group.

Caryn also officially handed over the Chair of the regular Treasurer’s office to Barbara Fetonte and she will now handle only the travel account.

Barbara Kaiser noted there was an excellent article in the on-line Texas AARP magazine featuring Pat Thomas and the Roll and Stroll Program.

Community Service Committee: Pat Thomas reported on the latest Roll and Stroll to Ladybird Lake and the Radisson Hotel and the humorous events that ensued. Pat intends to write these up later for inclusion in the 2426 Newsletter. Pat also announced that sometime in March she is planning to move to a duplex in a senior community in North Austin.

Hospitality Committee: Al Prewitt said all is going well and that Connie Flores is now spearheading this activity.

Legislative Committee: Pete noted that we still need replacements for Chairpersons Tom and Lilac Bauer on the Legislative Committee. Currently Mary Ragland, Barbara Kaiser, Gail Glick, Pat Thomas serve on that committee.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm

Respectively submitted

(APPROVED)

Ed Gonzales, Secretary