

AARP Chapter 2426 Minutes from the March 15th, 2017 Meeting

President **Petr Skalnik** called the meeting to order at 1:00pm and led the pledge of allegiance.

Announcements: The next regular Chapter meeting will be on **April 19th, 2017 @ 1:00PM** at the South Austin Senior Activity Center. The next Board meeting will be on **Wednesday, May 24th** at the Manchaca Road Branch of the Austin Public Library @ 10:00 am.

Minutes: The minutes of the February general meeting were read and approved.

Program: Cathy Collins, who is the Crime Victim Advocate for the Christi Center, an organization that provides peer -based support groups information/referral, outreach and education on grief issues, and limited individual counseling, presented our March program. Cathy has been a staff member with the Christi Center for over 12 years and volunteered for over a decade before that. In her capacity, she facilitates the mixed loss, kid's caregivers, crime victim, and Veteran's groups in addition to other groups at Austin Recovery. She shared her vast personal and professional knowledge about both grief and the Christi Center with the Chapter.

Attendance: Margaret Hughes reported that there were 59 in attendance today, including 5 guests. We have added 8 more members since February.

Birthdays and Anniversaries: March birthdays were: **Genevieve Dsouza, Jose Saenz, Marcie Parker, Laura Blaschke and Sally Vaughn**

Anniversaries: **Barbara and Danny Fetonte**

Treasurer's Report:

Barbara Fetonte reported that Chapter 2426 account balances were: Savings was \$25.00, Regular was \$2,385.95 and Travel was \$2,213.29

Community Service Committee: In Pat Thomas' absence, **Mary Ragland** reported that the Roll and Stroll is planning an outing to the Blanton Museum on Saturday, March 25. Meet at the Wheatsville Co-Op bus stop at 11:00 am to take the #803 bus and returning back around 3:00pm. She also said the Capitol Metro has adopted Pat Thomas' Roll and Stroll initiative and are calling a similar project "**Try Transit**". Dinner to follow the tour.

Travel: Mario Macaluso announced that the next trip will be an excursion on June 7th, to Lake Buchanan for the Vanishing Texas River Cruise through the Canyon of the

Eagles. The 2-hour cruise provides you spectacular views of Lake Buchanan, the Colorado River, native Texas wildlife, waterfalls, world-class bird watching and wintering Bald Eagles. After the cruise, lunch will be at Mama's Home Cooking Café. Sign up begins at the April Chapter meeting. Departure will be at 8:45 a.m. from South Austin Seniors Activities Center Cost: \$55 per person (Which covers bus cost, cruise, tips for driver, water, treats and a raffle). Trip will be opened to non -members on March 22, 2017. No checks accepted until March 15th. Mario also asked whether members might be interested to an overnight trip in the future.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

(APPROVED 4/19/2017)

Ed Gonzales, Secretary