

AARP Chapter 2426

Minutes from March 21st, 2018 Meeting

President **Petr Skalnik** called the meeting to order at 1:00pm. Vice President **Elaine Benton** led the pledge to the flag.

***Announcements:** The next regular Chapter meeting will be on April 18th, 2018 @ 1:00PM at the South Austin Senior Activity Center. The next Board meeting will be on May 15th, 2018 at the Manchaca Road Branch of the Austin Public Library @ 10:00 am.

OLD BUSINESS

Barbara Fetonte and Pete Skalnik: reported that at the last Board meeting, the results of a survey conducted at a recent Chapter meeting asking for input as to where to allocate our charitable contribution of \$1,000 for this year were analyzed and of the of the 38 respondents, the majority indicated that the contributions should be given to organizations who served the hungry and homeless and/or provided Alzheimer support. Five charities were picked to each receive \$200 and they were : **Abiding Love Food Pantry, St. Ignatius Food Pantry, Drive-A-Senior, Faith United Methodist Alzheimer Ministry** and the **Saint Louise House for Transitional Housing**.

Minutes: The minutes of the February 2018 meeting were read and approved.

Pete reported that volunteers are needed for the annual AARP day to be held in August.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Attendance and Membership Committee: **Margaret Hughes** reported that there were 67 attendees and 12 guests. They were: **Billy Fennell, Miluse Nepushi, Wylma Bradley, Lillian and Glen Nobel, Kathy Lamb, Margaret Rodenbeck, Tony Forseca, Eric Contreras, Letitia Krohn, Dixie Saxon and Thelma Tames.**

There were also 4 new members: **Nell and James Sanchez, Walter Mendez and Maria Guzman.**

Treasurer's Report: **Barbara Fetonte** reported that the Checking Account balance was **\$2, 476.60**, the Travel Account balance was **\$2, 275.24** and the Savings Account balance remained at **\$25.00**.

Community Service Committee: **Pat Thomas** discussed the mix-up which occurred at the latest Roll and Stroll to visit the new Mueller Complex and said she is meeting with the representatives of CapMetro to eliminate any such incidents in the future. She also announced several new Roll and Stroll events to take place in the near future. She urged everyone to watch the newsletter and emails for specific dates and times. Also many new

changes are coming to established bus routes, so more will be reported on this as it occurs.

Legislative Committee: Debbie Galloway reminded members that Part D beneficiaries who have high prescription drug expenses currently have to pay more once the total cost of their medicines reaches a certain threshold, called the coverage gap, also known as the "doughnut hole." The doughnut hole has been narrowing each year since the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was passed in 2010. The gap was scheduled to close in 2020, when beneficiaries would be expected to pay 25 percent of the cost of all their prescriptions while they were in the gap.

Under a recent legislative budget deal, the doughnut hole will now close next year. Beginning in 2019, Part D enrollees will pay 25 percent of the cost of all their prescription drugs from the time they enter the gap until they reach catastrophic coverage. Major drug companies are opposed to this closure as it will require them to pay more to lower Part D costs. For more information go to: [action.aarp.org/doughnut hole](http://action.aarp.org/doughnut-hole)

Sunshine Committee: There was 1 birthday celebrant present: **Nancy Crowder** and 1 Anniversary: **Walter Mendez**

Travel Report: Mario Macaluso said that the trip to the **LBJ Ranch in Johnson City** on May 8th, with a side trip to the **Wild Seed Farm** is full. Lunch will be in Fredericksburg. Note that departure time from SASAC will be at 7:45am sharp, so attendees will have to be here no later than 7:15am.

Program: Our presenter was **Mr. L.M. Rivers**, who teaches "Rhythm and Blues" and "Rhythm in Motion Line" dancing at the Well-Med Fitness Center and at the City of Austin Connolly-Guerrero Recreation Center. Mr. Rivers led many of the members out onto the dance floor for a half hour of fun exercise by line dancing to several R&B tunes.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.

Ed Gonzales, Secretary

(APPROVED April 18th, 2018)

*Not read at the meeting, for informational purposes only