



North Austin Chapter 2700

P O Box 201898
Austin Texas 78720

<http://www.AARPChapter2700.com>

July-August 2018
Newsletter
Volume 10, Issue 4

The founding principles of AARP are: To promote independence, dignity and purpose for older persons, to enhance the quality of life for older persons, and to encourage older people "To serve, not to be served."



CHAPTER 2700 PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Enedelia Obregon

It may still be summer, but AARP is asking its members to Be the Difference and vote in the November mid-term election.

The national office is asking members to pledge to vote. You can go to aarp.org/vote and make your pledge there. Or you can fill out pledge notices that we will have at our upcoming meetings. We will collect them and send them on our behalf.

One of our members is a registrar in Travis County and will be registering people to vote. If you have moved, you need to fill out a new card. The deadline to register to vote in the November election is Oct. 9.

Why is this important? Because this is a non-presidential election year, turnout tends to drop. About 90% of age 50-plus voters came out in 2016; only 75% voted in 2014.

There are also very important issues on the table.

1. The SNAP (formerly known as food stamp) program, which was part of the Federal Farm Bill, had a provision that added work requirements. AARP opposes it. It was originally filed this year as HR2 in the House of Representatives. It originally failed but was passed later. The U.S. Senate version has no working requirement. But that could change as the two versions are hashed out.

Please contact Sen. John Cornyn at 202-224-2934 or 512-469-6034 and Sen. Ted Cruz at 202-224-5922 or 512-916-5834 and oppose any work requirements.

2. Big pharmaceutical companies are also lobbying Congress to close the Medicare "doughnut hole." If that happens, people on Medicare would pay more for prescription drugs. Tell your members of Congress not to close the "doughnut hole."

3. Medical Expenditure Deductions are set to expire at the end of 2018. This allows those filing federal income taxes to deduct medical expenses if they exceed 7.5% of your adjusted gross income. This deduction is important to older people. In 2013, 72.7% of those claiming that deduction were 65 and older. Tell your members of Congress to extend those medical deductions.

In other business, our chapter has some housekeeping duties. Members at the July meeting will be asked to vote on some simple changes to our Bylaws. And after the July meeting, members will receive by email proposed changes to our Standing Rules to be voted on at the August meeting. These changes will help our board continue all their work on our behalf.

MEETINGS

*****NOTE: DATE, TIME & PLACE**

DATE:

TUESDAY, July 17, 2018 (Board Meeting 10:00 am)
TUESDAY, August 21, 2018

LOCATION:

WESTOVER HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST
8332 MESA DRIVE
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78759

PROGRAM: 1:00 pm

SOCIAL & BUSINESS: 1:30 pm

All board meetings are open to the membership!

PROGRAMS

JULY 17, 2018 (Third Tuesday)

Novelist and Historian, Myra Hargrave McIlvain is a teller of Texas tales. Whether she is sharing the stories in her books, her lectures, or her blog, she aims to make the Texas story alive. She has freelanced as a writer of Texas historical markers, written articles for newspapers all over the country and for magazines such as Texas Highways.

Board Sponsor: Dorothy Clark

AUGUST 16, 2018 (Third Thursday)

AARP Vendor Day
Bethany United Methodist Church
10010 Anderson Mill Rd

Sponsor AARP Team Council (Austin Area Chapters)

AUGUST 21, 2018 (Third Tuesday)

Jessica Lemann, Associate State Director of Outreach and Advocacy AARP Texas

Jessica will update members on the Austin Age-Friendly Plan. Numerous organizations, including the AARP, have developed this plan which is designed to make Austin a more livable community for seniors and to be more senior-friendly.

Board Sponsor: Dorothy Clark

SEPTEMBER 18, 2018 (Third Tuesday)

Jane Tillman, Travis County Audubon Society
Jane will talk about birds you can see in your backyard and how to attract them if you want.

Board Sponsor: Enedelia Obregon

2018 OFFICERS

President: Enedelia Obregon.....512-331-1890
 Vice President: Dot Clark.....512-460-9946
 Secretary: Carol Stimson.....512-331-0095
 Treasurer: Leslie Ashton.....512-750-1513

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	Martha Dyess 512-836-0862
Membership & Website	Judy Devore 512-420-9494
Co-Chair:	Phil Horn 512-219-1999
Legislative Chair:	Enedelia Obregon 512-331-1890
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Newsletter Editor:	Kitty Traylor 512-569-9479
	kittytraylor@gmail.com

YES---WE ARE A COMMUNITY!

(Submitted by Dorothy Clark)

Did you know that there are five(5) AARP chapters in Travis and Williamson Counties? Yes, and all are committed to keeping you informed on issues affecting seniors and providing ways for you to meet other members in your area.

To promote chapter unity all chapters will come together on Thursday, August 16 for AUSTIN AARP DAY at Bethany United Methodist Church on Anderson Mill Rd. This event is for all AARP members and guests. Below are the websites of some the chapters:

www.aarpchapter2700.com
www.southaustinaarp.org
www.aarpcedarpark.org

If you would like more information about the area chapters, please call (512) 480-2418. AARP chapters are separately incorporated affiliates of AARP.

MEMBERSHIP

by Judy Devore

If you are not getting the newsletter or notices from the travel committee by email or by snail mail, it may be because your information is not correct on our list, or you have not paid your dues for the year.

Please check the list at the meeting for any corrections or call Judy Devore @ 512-420-9494!

Risk of Falling for a Medicare Card-Replacement Scam High by Dena Bunis, AARP, April 10, 2018

(Submitted by Enedelia Obregon)

New AARP survey finds most beneficiaries unaware of redesigned card initiative

Sixty percent of those surveyed mistakenly believe they might have to pay for the revamped Medicare ID cards, making them vulnerable to scammers.

According to a [new AARP survey](#), more than three-quarters of Americans over age 65 know little or nothing about the federal government's initiative to [replace their Medicare cards](#). And that makes them susceptible to scammers intent on taking advantage of the confusion.

Individuals new to Medicare are receiving the updated card, which displays a unique combination of 11 letters and numbers rather than a beneficiary's Social Security number (SSN). Current beneficiaries will begin receiving their replacement cards next month.

AARP found that 60 percent of those surveyed mistakenly believe they might have to pay for the revamped cards. The new cards are free. And more than half of respondents said they might not be suspicious if they received a call — supposedly from Medicare — asking them to verify their SSNs as a prerequisite to getting a new card. Medicare officials have emphasized that they will never call beneficiaries about the cards, which are being mailed out by the Social Security Administration.

“The new Medicare cards are a step forward for fraud prevention, but con artists are working overtime on new ways to scam seniors,” says Nancy LeMond, AARP's chief advocacy and engagement officer.

Scammers posing as Medicare representatives have already been calling beneficiaries demanding a processing fee. Other fraudsters are telling beneficiaries that they are owed a refund from transactions on their old card and then asking for bank account information to process the reimbursement. Medicare will never ask an enrollee for a bank account number, and no refunds are owed.

AARP's telephone survey reached 800 respondents and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percent.

[AARP's Fraud Watch Network](#) provides more prevention tips and advice on card-replacement and other types of scams. Consumers can also sign up for “Watchdog Alert” emails to get regular updates on new scams.

HOW TO BLOCK UNWANTED PHONE CALLS

<https://www.consumeraffairs.com/news/how-to-block-unwanted-phone-calls-092315.html>



2018 TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

Travel Committee:

Connie Dunn, Dixie Saxon, Judy Devore,
Shirley Paz, Nelli Aguirre and Debbie Galloway

All costs listed are per person based on double occupancy and \$75 Deposit Required to Hold Your Reservation. For Diamond Tours additional costs for single occupancy and trip insurance is available.

DEPOSITS CAN BE MADE ON ALL TRIPS AT THIS TIME

Mail deposits to: AARP Chapter 2700
P O Box 201898 AUSTIN, TX 78720

VIRGINIA BEACH, COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG & HISTORIC NORFOLK

September 14 - 24, 2018. 10 nights, 11 days; 18 meals; visit the Virginia Beach Boardwalk and the Yankee Candle Village; plus Virginia Beach Aquarium & Marine Science Center; guided tour of Colonial Williamsburg; Dinner Cruise & Entertainment on the Spirit of Norfolk; Admission to the Nautilus & Battleship Wisconsin. COST \$1140 pp/Double Occupancy. Deposit due at time of sign up. Final payment due July 7, 2018. **Group Tour Leaders Dixie Saxon 512-944-6011 and Shirley Paz 512-689-7123**

NASHVILLE SHOW TRIP

November 4 - 10, 2018. 6 nights, 7 days; 10 meals; **2 Great Shows: 1) THE GRAND OLE OPRY, 2) NASHVILLE NIGHTLIFE DINNER THEATER;** Guided Tours of NASHVILLE and BELLE MEADE PLANTATION; Admission to the COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME; Admission to the GRAND OLE OPRY BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR; Ride on the DELTA FLATBOATS inside the OPRYLAND HOTEL; Admission to the JOHNNY CASH MUSEUM. **COST \$735 pp/Double Occupancy;** Deposit due at time of sign up. Final payment due August 28, 2018. **Group Tour Leaders Dixie Saxon 512-944-6011 and Nelli Aguirre 512-663-4317**

Visit our AARP North Austin Chapter 2700 Website to see pictures of our wonderful trips!

Photos for the website: <https://photos.google.com/>.

Share the link with us and we can post that to our website.



AARP Chapter 2700 Community Service

Thanks to the following for donations to the Food Pantry and Manos de Cristo:

- Dianna Stiefer for collecting and donating 616 large, plastic HEB bags.
- New York City Travelers for shampoo, soap, etc. from the hotels.
- Chapter members donations.
- Marie Acosta, Connie Acosta, Doris Moore, Jerri Zoch, and Isabel Orta for delivering the 24 large bags of groceries and six large bags of personal hygiene items.

They are greatly appreciated by the poor and homeless in our community.



There will be drawings at the meeting for prizes!

You have to be present to win!

CAN YOU? WILL YOU? WON'T YOU? ARE YOU...REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Chapter 2700 has the ultimate solution.
Get registered to vote!

A Deputy Voter Registrar will be at the **September** and **October** chapter meetings from 12:30 to 2:30 pm to register YOU to vote.

Special thanks to Dixie Saxon who has put in a lot of time planning and coordinating the AARP Travel trips. Travel is one of the reasons we are getting new members as well as connecting us socially!



New York City Trip with a super bus driver from Lubbock!

The future of Medicaid could be decided this November in the midterm elections. It's so important that we ALL VOTE

MIDTERM ELECTION WINNERS COULD DETERMINE MEDICAID'S FUTURE

by Dena Bunis, [AARP Bulletin](#), July/August 2018

It's not an exaggeration to say that the [survival of Medicaid](#) as it stands today will be in the hands of the state and federal officials we elect this fall.

For 53 years, Medicaid has served as a safety net for millions of people who needed assistance as their ability to care for themselves declined. In 2010, Medicaid's health care role grew with the passage of the Affordable Care Act, which called for the expansion of health coverage to more low-income families. So far, 33 states and Washington, D.C., have expanded the program.

But Medicaid, [Social Security](#) and [Medicare](#) often are targeted for cost cutting in times of rising deficits. Medicaid is particularly vulnerable, says David Certner, AARP's legislative policy director, "because it services populations such as low-income seniors and people with disabilities, who don't have as strong a voice."

Most people think of Medicare as the health program for older adults and people with disabilities, which it is. But while Medicare covers medicines, tests, doctor visits and hospital procedures, it's Medicaid that pays to help a frail elderly person get dressed, bathe and eat — either at home or in a nursing facility.

So, what many Americans also don't realize, is that when you put Medicaid funding on the chopping block, you are jeopardizing benefits for millions and millions of seniors and people with disabilities who get their long-term care through Medicaid. More than 17 million older adults and people with disabilities account for 60 percent of all Medicaid spending.

With a rising federal deficit — due in large part to the 2017 tax cuts — and a number of states pursuing greater barriers to beneficiaries who are seeking care, it's clear that Medicaid is facing strong headwinds in the coming years.

Seventy-four percent of Americans have a favorable view of Medicaid, according to a February tracking poll by the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF). That may be due to Medicaid's long reach. For example, the program covers 6 in 10 nursing home residents in America, a KFF report shows.

The federal government sets general Medicaid guidelines, but each state designs and runs its own program. In recent years there have been calls in Washington and in state legislatures to change Medicaid's rules, usually to save money.

In just the past year, 10 states have applied to [add new work requirements](#) to their Medicaid programs, and several have gotten federal permission to do so. Several states have also asked to impose lifetime limits on Medicaid benefits, but so far these requests have not been approved.

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