

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 Obregón**

The light at the end of the tunnel is either the Texas Legislature going home - the last day of the session is Memorial Day May 27 - or it's a train meeting us head-on.

The staff at AARP Texas has been working hard on several bills to help seniors in this state. We still have time to contact our state representatives and senators on these important issues. Some bills have advanced more than others.

Senate Bill 1037 has landed at Gov. Gregg Abbott's desk but has not been signed. This would keep surprise medical bill off of Texans' credit history. Surprise medical bills are the biggest reason people go into bankruptcy.

Call him at now 512-463-2000 or contact him at gov.texas.gov

Another bill showing the most promise is **House Bill 2536**, which would require more transparency on **prescription drug prices** from pharmaceutical drug companies. The bill is sponsored by State Rep. Tom Oliverson, (R-Cypress), a physician. An amendment added by State Rep. Senfronia Thompson, (D-Houston), would make it one of the strongest in the nation if adopted.

As amended, the bill would require drug manufacturers to report to the state and turn over detailed documentation whenever the price of certain drugs jumps over 10 percent annually or more than 40 percent over five years. The bill, if passed, would call for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to create a website where Texans could track price spikes and explanations from drug companies for those increases.

House Bill 278, which would expand the authority of Advance Practice Registered Nurses, has been sent to the governor. This is especially important in rural areas where there are no physicians. **HB 2250**, which would give authority to APRNs and Physician Assistants to prescribe Schedule II drugs, is pending in the Senate Business and Commerce Committee.

Among other AARP Texas-backed bills are:

Nursing Home Safety: HB 2050, would require written consent for the use of antipsychotics in nursing homes. The bill passed the House and was voted favorably by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

Freestanding Emergency Room Protections: HB 2041, filed by Oliverson, is set for a hearing in the Senate Business & Commerce Committee. The bill would require that a freestanding emergency medical care facility post information explaining the center or physician providing

MEETINGS

Please bring a donation for the food bank!

DATE:

TUESDAY, May 21, 2019 (Board Meeting 10:00 am)

TUESDAY, June 18, 2019

LOCATION:

WESTOVER HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

8332 MESA DRIVE

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78759

PROGRAM:

1:00 pm

SOCIAL & BUSINESS:

1:30 pm

PROGRAM FOR MAY 21, 2019



Mr. Gil Starkey of Austin 350, a local environmental group active in dissemination and updates on climate change, and what is impacting our environment.

"350 Austin is a local, grassroots organization committed to the goals and strategies of 350.org. They

believe we are uniquely positioned to influence the direction of climate change action. This is because Austin is the capital of Texas, a state with a long history with the fossil fuel industry, including production, processing, and distribution of fossil fuels. They recognize the current political climate in the state and nation that makes their work particularly challenging. One of the goals of the organization is to inform citizens of their local actions in the global climate movement."

care may be out-of-network in a patient's health care plan. It would also require that this information be posted at the facility's entrance, patient treatment rooms, each area where a patient would pay for services and on the home page of the center's website. The notice could also be on a different page through a hyperlink, as long as it's titled "Insurance Information" and available for a person to locate from the home page.

In Chapter news, Chapter 2700 is still in need of a Vice President. It's not too late to volunteer for this two-year term position. The Vice President helps the president as needed and is one of three persons who can sign checks. The other signees are the treasurer and president. Every check the treasurer writes requires two signatures.

Marie Acosta has agreed to chair the Nominations Committee again for the board and officers for 2020.

2019 OFFICERS

President: Enedelia Obregón....512-331-1890
 Vice President:VACANT
 Secretary: Judy Devore.....512-420-9494
 Treasurer: Leslie Ashton.....512-750-1513

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Virgil Murphy, Aline Murphy, Tomás Garza,
 Dianna Stiefer

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Check-In:	Doris Hill 512-452-7325
Membership Sign Up:	Hilda Venema 512-837-4052
Membership & Website Chair:	Judy Devore 512-420-9494
Legislative Chair:	Enedelia Obregón 512-331-1890
Programs:	Dorothy Clark 737-529-4000
Community Service Chair	Chinell Williams 512-928-2419
Co-Chair	Diane Wright 512-892-3354
Caring Committee:	Naomi Hodge 512-745-7760
Telephone Chair:	Yvonne Connell 512-261-9783
Volunteer Hours:	Aline Murphy 512-869-1471
Refreshments:	Randi Parker 512-258-0039
Travel Chair & Treasurer:	Dixie Saxon 512-944-6011
Newsletter Editor:	Kitty Traylor 512-569-9479 kittytraylor@gmail.com

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

JUNE 18, 2019

Kim Stanley

"How to Make a Downsize move...Three Steps to an easier life style."

Kim has a passion for serving adults in the midst of life changes. She is a "Certified Residential Specialist" who helps clients meet the challenges of life style changes.

Sponsor: Dorothy Clark

JULY 16, 2019

Chief Brian Manley



Chief Manley is a native Texan who grew up in Austin. He joined the Austin Police Department in 1990. He believes in building and maintaining relationships and keeping a line of communication open with neighborhoods and citizens.

Sponsor: Dorothy Clark



There will be our customary drawings at the meeting for prizes (*you have to be present to win!*)

Please bring a donation to the food bank and something for the potluck dinner!

AARP CHAPTER #2700 TRAVEL 2020

Travel Committee:

Dixie Saxon, Shirley Paz and Nelli Aguirre

Join us for Fun, Friendship and Adventures

March 14 – 23, 2020

Italy ... The Wonders of Tuscany

Approximately \$4,000 *double*

April 19 – 26, 2020

Savannah, Ga / Charleston, SC

\$1,049.00 *double*

June 19 – 29, 2020

Mackinac Island & Northern Michigan

\$1,025 *double*

September 13 – 20, 2020

Alaska – Cruise

Inside Cabin \$2,309 *double*

Balcony \$2989 *double*

October or November 2020

Branson Show Trip

Approx. \$630.00 *double*

(Diamond will start booking this trip in November 2019)

**Questions or concerns, please call:
Dixie Saxon at 512-944-6011**

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.

MEMBERSHIP

Judy Devore (Chair)

We have 238 members with 28 new. 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 call Judy Devore @ 512-420-9494!

To download the newsletter, you need the free Adobe Reader!

Aline Murphy, our volunteer chair, reported that our members volunteered a total of 414 hours in April.



CARING COMMITTEE

If you or another chapter member are sick, has had some type of surgery and is recovering, hospitalized, or has lost a loved one, and you would like to list it in the newsletter, please contact Naomi below:

Naomi Hodge (ahodge55@sbcglobal.net or 512-745-7760),
Yvonne Connell, & Joan Ewen

GRANDPARENT SCAM

<https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/info-2019/grandparent.html>

Scam artists will use any leverage they can get to separate you from your money. Sadly, that includes exploiting grandparents' love and concern for their grandchildren, giving rise to a breed of impostor fraud specifically targeting older Americans.

Grandparent scams typically work something like this: The victim gets a call from someone posing as his or her grandchild. This person explains, in a frantic-sounding voice, that he or she is in trouble: There's been an accident, or an arrest, or a robbery. To up the drama and urgency, the caller might claim to be stuck in a foreign country; to make the impersonation more convincing, he or she will throw in a few family particulars, gleaned from the actual grandchild's social media activity.

The impostor offers just enough detail about where and how the emergency happened to make it seem plausible and perhaps turns the phone over to another scammer who pretends to be a doctor, police officer or lawyer and backs up the story. The "grandchild" implores the target to wire money immediately, adding an anxious plea: "Don't tell Mom and Dad!"

Fraudsters have also been known to ply this trick by email, text message and social media. It can be very lucrative — one former practitioner told CBS News that he could make as much as \$10,000 on a good day. And it appears to be on the rise: The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) reports that family and friend impostor scams cost consumers \$41 million in the 12 months ending Oct. 31, 2018, up from \$26 million the previous year. The median loss is \$2,000, according to the FTC, more than four times the amount for all fraud types.

WARNING SIGNS

- The person claiming to be your grandchild asks you to send money immediately and provides details on how — for example, via prepaid cards or to a particular Western Union office.
- The call comes late at night. Scammers figure an older person may get confused more easily if they call then, the National Consumers League warn

DO'S

- Do say you'll call right back, then call your grandchild's usual phone number. With luck, he or she will answer, and you'll know that the supposed emergency call is a scam.
- Do contact other family members or friends and see whether they can verify the story. Scammers plead with you to keep the emergency a secret precisely so you won't try to confirm it.
- If you speak to someone who claims to be a police officer, do call the relevant law enforcement agency to verify the person's identity and any information they've given you.

Do trust your instincts. As the American Bar Association advises, if something doesn't feel right, it probably isn't.

CHAPTER 2700 COMMUNITY SERVICE

Chinell Williams (Chair)

We are collecting gently used medium/large size purses for our Pack a Purse for a Homeless Woman Project. We would like to collect a hundred purses by February 2020. These purses will be filled with toiletry items, snacks, etc. and delivered to the Salvation Army Women's Shelter in East Austin.

Our next community service project is a food drive for the Manos de Cristo Food Pantry. They provide emergency assistance to families and individuals in Austin. Please donate the following items: cereal, bags of rice, bags of pinto beans, peanut butter, bottles of cooking oil, canned goods (green beans, black beans, pork & beans, Ranch Style Beans, whole kernel corn, tuna, Vienna sausage, soup, tomatoes, tomato sauce, pasta sauce), juice boxes, fruit, fruit cups, applesauce, pancake mix & syrup, crackers (saltine and Ritz). Monetary donations will also be accepted to purchase food items. You may bring your donations to our meetings. We will deliver the food to Manos de Cristo in late June.



AARP Chapter 2700 hosted a Bingo Event for the residents at the Stonebriar Nursing & Rehabilitation Center on March 29. Thanks to our chapter members for their generous donations and to our volunteers.

Pictured left to right: Helena Hedrick, Doris Moore, Jerrilyn Zoch, Linda Kemp, and Diane Wright

Grandparent Scam continued

DON'T'S

- Don't drop your guard because the number on your caller ID looks familiar. Scammers can use technological tricks to make it appear that they're calling from a trusted number, the Federal Communications Commission warns.
- Don't volunteer information — scammers fish for facts they can use to make the impersonation believable. For example, if the caller says, "It's me, grandpa!" don't say your grandchild's name. Wait for the caller say it.
- Don't let a caller rush you into making a decision.
- Don't send cash, wire money, or provide numbers from gift or cash-reload cards to a person claiming to be a grandchild. Scammers prefer those payment methods because they're difficult to trace.

Don't panic, no matter how dire the grandchild's predicament sounds. Scam artists want to get you upset to distract you from spotting the ruse.

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL AND 350.ORG WORKING TO STOP EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE



The Austin City Council has set the goal of reaching net-zero community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The Austin

Community Climate Plan identifies more than 130 actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from energy, transportation, and materials and waste sources.

Austin Energy customers can cut fossil fuels from their home's diet with GreenChoice. By investing just 3/4s of a penny per kilowatt hour, Austinites can ensure that their municipal utility purchases Texas wind power to match 100% of their electricity consumption. You can sign up at any time, no contract required. [Learn more from Austin Energy.](#)

The 350 organization recommends some areas where you can pitch in:

- **Artful Activism** – art and visual support, including but not limited to signs and banners.

- **Behind the Scenes** – admin., data entry, website maintenance, and other support.
- **Communications/Media** – web content and support, press releases, social media.
- **Community Justice Solutions** – learn from community groups who are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change about how 350 Austin can assist them.
- **Divestment** – encourage institutions to divest, encourage individuals to transfer funds from financial institutions that invest in extraction industries.
- **Event Organization & Outreach** – plan big events, assist with welcoming.
- **Government Watch** – monitor state and local governments.
- **Keep It In The Ground** – direct action and support for those participating in direct action against extraction projects.

Austin 350.org monthly meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin. Children are welcome. The meeting will be called to order promptly at 7:00 pm and adjourned at 8:30 pm.

NORTH AUSTIN AARP Chapter 2700
P O BOX 201898
AUSTIN TX 78720

