



North Austin Chapter 2700

P O Box 201898 (New)

Austin Texas 78720

<http://www.AARPChapter2700.com>

Mar-Apr 2017
Newsletter
Volume 9, Issue 2

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."



AARP SAYS SAVE MEDICARE

by Enedelia Obregon

The National AARP is calling on its membership to help save traditional Medicare as we know it today.

AARP is officially opposing a proposed measure by U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan to turn Medicare into a voucher system. While this measure has not been officially introduced in Congress, AARP is trying to get ahead of the

game and let Congress know through its membership that we want to keep traditional Medicare as it is now. We want to stop this before proposal gets proposed to Congress.

To help educate members on the issue, I attended training one recent afternoon at the AARP Texas offices via videoconferencing from Washington, D.C. The trainers are national AARP staff. This is what I learned.

Under a voucher system, each Medicare recipient would receive a voucher - like a card or coupon - with a certain amount of money in it. You would be responsible for finding your own doctor who would accept vouchers. You would be responsible for the difference in the cost of care and the amount in the voucher. For example, if a knee replacement cost \$10,000 and the voucher had only \$5,000 then you would be responsible for paying the \$5,000 difference.

There is also talk of "grandfathering" people of a certain age. But that would also create financial problems. Younger people would be paying into their voucher program, leaving older people with traditional Medicare with no new revenue stream coming in. Medicare works because everyone pays into it and eventually draws from it as younger people start working and paying into the program.

When President Trump was running for office, he campaigned to protect Medicare and Social Security. We want him to keep his word. We need to let Congress know we want him to keep his campaign promise.

Texas Senator John Cornyn is majority whip for the Republican party. We need to target him with our opposition to this proposal. He can be reached at [202-224-2934](tel:202-224-2934) in Washington, D.C. His Austin office number is [512-469-6034](tel:512-469-6034).

You can also call Senator Ted Cruz at [202-224-5922](tel:202-224-5922) or [512-916-5834](tel:512-916-5834).

You also need to contact your Congressman. Mine is Michael McCaul. His main number is [202-225-2401](tel:202-225-2401). His Austin number is [281-398-1247](tel:281-398-1247). It is answered from Katy, his district base.

During the recent Congressional break they recently hold town hall meetings with constituents. We tried for several weeks to get an appointment at his Austin office. So during the Congressional break I went to his Austin office. There were many others there wanting to speak with staff. I went in with a group of six people and left a written letter with these concerns. I went there as a constituent but also as chapter president. I told staff how many members we have and that we vote.

In a more recent development, the National AARP is officially opposing the proposed national health care bill that would replace the Affordable Care Act enacted under President Obama. The opposition is due to proposals that would weaken traditional Medicare and open the door to a voucher program that would shift costs and risks to seniors. It would increase insurance premiums for seniors and not lower drug costs.

If you don't know who your Congressman is go www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us

NEXT MEETINGS

Date:

Thursday, March 16th, 2017 Chapter Meeting
Thursday, April 20, 2017 Chapter Meeting
(Board Meeting @ 10:00-12:00 Noon)
Thursday, May 18, 2017 Chapter Meeting

Place:

Bethany United Methodist Church
10010 Anderson Mill Rd
Austin, TX 78750

Social Time: 2:00 pm

Meeting Time: 2:30 pm

All board meetings are open to the membership!

2017 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

BOARD MEMBERS

Bea Bates	Argie Horn	Laura Shell
Connie Dunn	Phil Horn	Kitty Traylor
Doris Hill	Dixie Saxon	Chinell Williams

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Check-In:	Nelda Lee 512-451-1019
Check-In:	Doris Hill 512-452-7325
Greeters:	Vicki and Hank Buterbaugh
Membership Sign Up	Hilda Venema & Martha Dyess 512-837-4052
Membership Chair	Judy Devore 512-420-9494
Membership Co-Chair	Phil Horn 512-219-1999
Legislative Chair:	Enedelia Obregon 512-331-1890
Programs:	Various Board Members
Community Service:	Vacant
Sympathy:	Barbara Bishop 512-926-4256
Telephone Chair:	Bea Bates 512-258-4088
Volunteer Hours:	Carolyn Hunt 512-834-0528
Refreshments:	Randi Parker 512-258-0039
Travel Chair:	Connie Dunn 512-497-2897
Travel Treasurer:	Dixie Saxon 512-944-6011
Newsletter Editor:	Kitty Traylor 512-569-9479 kittytraylor@gmail.com

MARCH PROGRAM

MARCH 16th

AGE of Central Texas

Rob Fabion with AGE of Central Texas
Mission: Tackling the challenges of aging with expert solutions. Our Shared Vision: To make aging a shared journey of strength and compassion.

AGE's Interrelated Programs Include:

- Adult Day Health Care
- Caregiver education and resources
- CaregiverU
- Early memory loss support
- Health equipment lending
- Peer-based computer classes for seniors/AGE Computer Lab

Board Sponsor: Dot Clark

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

APRIL 20th

Slide Presentation of Italy

Mario Macaluso, AARP North and South member, will speak on his many trips to Italy with a slide show presentation.

MAY 18th

NAMI

Kathy Bentz, Family & Peer Program Coordinator with National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) will speak on improving the lives of persons affected by serious mental illness. NAMI provides support, education and advocacy throughout the Metropolitan area of Austin, to individuals and families affected by mental illness.

Board Sponsor: Enedelia Obregon

AARP Chapter 2700 New Treasurer

"Please welcome Leslie Ashton as our new treasurer. She stepped forward after the office was vacated. The board held two emergency meetings to fill the office of the treasurer and to deal with other business that needed to be resolved."

Retired CPA

30+ years at the State Auditor's Office
Served as church Board Treasurer and chair of Finance Committee

Currently Treasurer and Webmaster for a community theater

Active in small dog rescue

Enjoy grandchildren, reading, traveling, movies, bingoo, card/domino games.

List of Future AARP Chapter 2700 Meetings in 2017 (2:00 - 4:00 pm) 3rd Thursday's (except June 8)

March 16	
April 20	(Board Meeting 10-12)
May 18	(Board Meeting 10-12)
June 8	(Board Meeting 10-12)
July 20	
August 17	(Board Meeting 10-12)
September 21	
October 19	
November 16	(Board Meeting) 10-12)
December 21	

SYMPATHY, ETC.

If you or someone you know has a health problem, surgery, death, etc., and would like to be sent a card, please contact Barbara Bishop. If you wish to be listed in the newsletter, please contact Kitty Traylor.

If you have a question regarding Chapter 2700, please contact the chairperson responsible listed in this newsletter.

ATTENTION MEMBERSHIP!

Judy Devore has volunteered to be the new Membership Chair and will be keeping the Membership list updated. If you are **not** getting the Newsletter by email, or notices from the Travel Committee, it may be because your email is not correct on our list! Please check the list at the next meeting, or call and let us know if it has changed!

Contacting Your Legislator

The Texas Legislature Online provides information on its "[Who Represents Me?](#)" page about current members of the Texas Senate, Texas House of Representatives, the Texas delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives, and the State Board of Education. You can search by street address, ZIP code, county, and/or city. Information on U.S. Senators from Texas may found at the [U.S. Senate](#).

By mail

You may write to your legislators at the following addresses:

The Honorable (insert name of Senator)
Texas Senate
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711
The Honorable (insert name of Representative)
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910

District office addresses are available on [Who Represents Me?](#) on Texas Legislature Online.

By e-mail

E-mail is handled by each office individually. For e-mail options, see the [Texas Senators](#) and [House Membership](#) web sites.



"I know that you believe you understand what you think I said, but I'm not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant." Robert McCloskey



2017 TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

by Connie Dunn & Dixie Saxon

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.

**Mail deposits to: AARP Chapter 2700
P.O. Box 201898 Austin, Texas 78720**

PIGEON FORGE & SMOKY MOUNTAINS SHOW TRIP April 29 - May 7, 2017

Includes 8 nights lodging with 4 consecutive nights in the Smoky Mountain area 14 meals: 8 breakfasts and 6 dinners. Three dinner shows—**Soul of Motown**, **America's Hit Parade**, **The Hatfield-McCoy Show**; one evening show—**Smoky Mountain Opry** and one morning show—**Smith Morning Variety Show**. Guided Tour of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and free time in Historic Downtown Gatlinburg. Admission to Clinton Presidential Library & Willie Nelson & Friends Museum & General Store and much much more... Deposit of \$75 is due upon sign up and **Final Payment is due on February 21, 2017**. Group Tour Leaders Dixie Saxon 512-944-6011 and Connie Dunn 512-497-2897. COST \$753 pp dbl.

(Openings Available)

MAINE, MONTREAL, QUEBEC, & OTTAWA CANADA

VALID PASSPORT NEEDED

July 24 - August 2, 2017

9 nights lodging including 4 consecutive nights in Maine and 5 consecutive nights in Canada (18 meals: 9 breakfasts and 9 dinners). Guided **TOUR OF PORTLAND**, Maine's largest city-by-the-sea. Guided **TOUR OF QUAINT KENNEBUNK AND KENNEBUNKPORT**. **TOUR OF HISTORIC VICTORIA MANSION** and visit to **BOOTHBAY RAILWAY VILLAGE**. Visit to the Seashore Trolley Museum and countryside trolley ride and **LL BEAN STORE**. Guided **TOURS OF MONTREAL, QUEBEC CITY & CANADA'S CAPITAL CITY - OTTAWA**. Visit **NOTRE DAME BASILICA**. Admission to the world famous **MONTREAL TOWER** and admission to Ottawa's famous **CANADIAN MUSEUM of History**. Plus, go to **MONTREAL'S UNDERGROUND CITY** and **OTTAWA'S PARLIAMENT HILL**, plus top it off with a narrated **CRUISE ON THE STUNNING ST. LAWRENCE RIVER**. AIR FARE to Manchester, NH required on your own. Deposit of \$75 due at sign up. Group Leaders Dixie Saxon [512-944-6011](tel:512-944-6011) and [Connie Dunn 512-497-2897](tel:512-497-2897) COST \$1331.

(Wait List Only)

COLORADO SPRINGS AND GARDEN OF THE GODS

September 23 - October 1, 2017

8 nights lodging including 4 consecutive nights in Scenic Colorado. Includes 14 meals (8 breakfasts and 6 dinners), Tour of the **GARDEN OF THE GODS**, Visit the United States **AIR FORCE ACADEMY**, See Colorado's natural wonder, The **ROYAL GORGE**, Visit historic **MANITOU SPRINGS** at the foot of famous **PIKE'S PEAK**, Guided tour of Colorado Springs, Admission to the **GLEN EYRIE CASTLE**, and much more. Deposit of \$75 due at sign up. Group Leaders Dixie Saxon [512-944-6011](tel:512-944-6011) and [Connie Dunn 512-497-2897](tel:512-497-2897) COST \$783.

(Openings Available)

Don't forget to sign up on the wait lists.

Visit our [AARP North Austin Chapter 2700 Website](http://www.aarp.org) to see Pictures of our wonderful trips!

Follow Up on Ella Moore

While on our trip to Amelia Island, Jacksonville and St Augustine Florida, one of our travelers, Ella Moore became ill and was hospitalized in Gainesville Florida. Ella is one of our "always young" travelers at a mere 94 years of age. She was unable to complete the trip and was later flown back home accompanied by a medical nurse. After trips to her local doctors and more testing, she is at home and recovering and regaining her strength. Thank you for all the prayers and well wishes, as well as the decisions of Travel Chair Connie Dunn and Nurse Judy Devore.

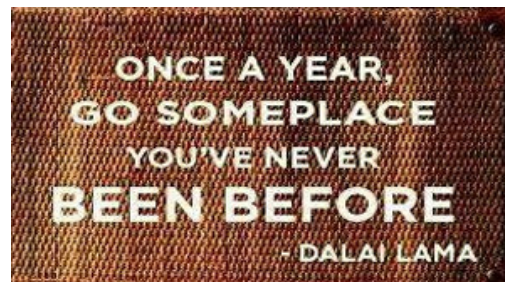
Interested in DAY-TRIPS?

Contact: Mario Macaluso, AARP Chapter 2426
512-432-5255, mmdm1967@aol.com

Planned Future Trips:

1. Fredericksburg; March 21st; \$48.00 per person
2. Two-hour cruise on Lake Buchanan; June 7; \$55.00 per person

Come see Mario's slide presentation on Italy April 20th.



HELP IN FILING YOUR TAX RETURNS FOR 2017

Faulk Central Library 512-974-7400 (forms, no assistance)
Hampton Branch @ Oak Hill 512-974-9900
(no forms but assistance Wed. 3/16, 3/30 10:30 am - 2:30 pm)
Howson Branch 512-974-8800 (no forms but assistance 1 - 5)
Little Walnut Creek Branch 512-974-9860 (no forms but assistance)
North Village Branch 512-974-9960
(forms & assistance on Tuesday's 12 - 4 pm)
Pleasant Hill Branch 512-974-3940 (forms, no assistance)
Ruiz Branch 512-974-7500 (no forms and no assistance)
Southeast Branch 512-974-8840 (forms and no assistance)
University Hills Branch 512-974-9940
(forms & assistance on Tues & Thurs 10 am -1:30 pm)
Yarborough Branch 512-974-8820 (forms, assistance on Mondays 10-am-2 pm)

Allen Baca Senior Center 512-218-5499
Cedar Park Library 512-258-6346
I Jones Library 512-267-7511
Leander Public Library 512-259-5259
Pflugerville Community Library 512-990-5375
South Austin Senior Activity Center 512-448-0787



CHAIRPERSON NEEDED **COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS**

2016 projects listed below

(you do not have to do all of these, or you can create new ones)

Project is to Pack a Purse for a woman at the Salvation Army Women's & Children's Shelter (Manos de Cristo & St. Vincent De Paul have also requested care packages). Donate a gently used, clean, empty purse (you do not need a purse to donate below items).

Chap stick, hand sanitizer, nail polish, a soap keeper and a bar of soap, washcloth, toothbrush, toothpaste, toothbrush cover, pack of wipes, packages pocket tissues, socks, comb & brush set, chocolates .(we are accepting Bags of Hershey Kisses & snack size Ziplock bags to ensure that all purses contain chocolates.)

The purses will be delivered to the Salvation Army Women's & Children Shelter on Tannehill Road in East Austin.

Manos de Cristo Food Drive

The Manos de Cristo Food Pantry provides emergency assistance to families and individuals in Austin. You can donate any of the following items: Cheerios, Corn Flakes, 2 lb. bags of rice, 2 lb bags of pinto beans, peanut butter, 16oz. bottles of cooking oil, canned goods - green beans, whole kernel corn, tuna, soup, fruit, tomato sauce, canned tomatoes & juice boxes. Monetary donations will also be accepted to purchase food items.

Austin Nursing Bingo

AARP will host a Bingo for residents at The Stonebriar Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in June. **You can show you care by** contributing items on the Wish List or volunteer to host the Bingo. We will accept monetary donations in April, May & June to purchase prizes for Bingo. Wish List will be provided.

Annual Christmas Card Writing Project

Help sign Christmas card for our Military Troops. The event will take place at Bethany United Methodist Church (BMUC) – TBA. Members may take cards home after July & August meetings & return signed cards in September.

Annual State School Ice Cream Party

AARP Chapter 2700 will host it's Annual State School Ice Cream Party in September (TBA). You can donate any of the items below. Most requested item are: stuffed animals (large & small), beanie babies, card games (ie. Uno), 250-500 piece puzzles, crossword, word find & coloring books, crayons, colorful stickers, comb & brush sets. Donations of money to purchase supplies for party will be greatly appreciated. Volunteer sign-up sheet will be available at the AARP meetings.

Salvation Army Kettle Drive (Red Kettle Drive)

You can donate to this worthy cause by donating your spare change collected at monthly meetings in October, November, and December. Donations will be presented to a Salvation Army Representative at our December meeting.

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