

AARP - Real Possibilities

North Austin Chapter 2700  
P.O. Box 201898  
<https://www.AARPChapter2700.com>

May & June 2024

Volume 14  
Issue 3

Latest news and bulletin updates

Editor and Media Administrator: Charline Tate

President Corner



Dear Members,

As we gear up for our upcoming chapter elections, your participation is crucial in shaping the future of our community. Walter Donnelly, our current President, has urged all members to actively engage in the nomination process by submitting their suggestions for potential candidates.

Your nominations play a pivotal role in ensuring that our chapter continues to thrive and represent the diverse interests of our community. Whether you know someone with a passion for leadership or believe you have the skills to contribute, now is the time to step forward.

Please take a moment to fill out a nomination slip and help us identify the individuals who will lead us into the next chapter of our journey together. Let's work together to build a stronger and more vibrant community for all.

Thank you for your participation and commitment to our chapter's success.

Walter Donnelly, President

Chapter 2700 North Austin



MEETINGS

**Day:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month

**Location:**

Westover Hills Church of Christ

**Physical Address**

8332 Mesa Drive

Austin, Texas 78759

**Time:** 1:00 PM

Meeting FYI

- All vehicles must display a parking permit which can be obtained at the Welcome Desk.
- We will be serving Potluck. Feel free to share your favorite dish.
- Optional: We are collecting donations for the Food Pantry.



AARP Prayer

We pray that we shall never be so blind, that our small world is all we see, or so supremely satisfied that all we see is all we feel we want to be.

God grant us the joy of feeling someone's need.

Make us gracious followers, if we were not meant to lead.

And most of all we pray on through the years we will remember there Are Always New Frontiers.



Latest news and bulletin updates

Editor and Media Administrator: Charline Tate



Maria & David Barrera

David and Maria’s story is one of dedication, service, and community involvement. They first met in 1970 while working at the original Seton Hospital near UT Austin. Their journey together took a significant turn when David received a draft notice in 1971, leading to his enlistment in the Army. Undeterred by distance, Maria joined David in Germany where they spent two formative years together, during which their eldest son was born.

After completing his military service, David transitioned to a career at IBM in Austin, which spanned nearly three decades until IBM shifted focus. David then embarked on a fulfilling career with the City of Austin in the Health and Human Services Department, dedicating 15 years to public service. Maria’s career in nursing at Seton and later in a call center underscored her commitment to healthcare. Beyond her professional duties, Maria embarked on a different journey in the mid-1980s, becoming the primary caregiver for her sister and later her parents, a testament to her unwavering compassion and resilience.

Together, David and Maria share a passion for travel, having explored various destinations with our AARP group. David’s enthusiasm for UT sports is infectious, while Maria finds joy in her participation in a local Book Club. Their shared experiences and interests reflect a deep connection to our community and a commitment to enhancing our chapter’s activities.

David and Maria's tireless efforts behind the scenes ensure that our meetings remain meaningful and relevant to our members' interests. Their meticulous planning and thoughtful selection of presenters have consistently elevated our gatherings, fostering a sense of camaraderie and learning among attendees.

Thank you, David and Maria, for all that you contributions!

Meet Our Unsung Heroes:

Board Member Spotlights

In this edition, we shine a spotlight on a few of our dedicated board members. While we see them monthly, many may not fully grasp the vital roles they play and the impactful work they do for our Chapter.

Join us as we introduce you to the faces behind the scenes who help shape our community's future.



Enedelia Obregon

Source <https://states.aarp.org/texas/womens-history-month-why-i-volunteer>

Enedelia has been an AARP volunteer in Austin for nearly a decade. With extensive experience at both the state level and within local chapters, she focuses on initiatives that uplift communities often overlooked in policymaking, especially communities of color in Texas.

Growing up in a family of migrant farm workers, Enedelia was the first in her extended family to attend university and earn a degree. Inspired by her mother, she pursued higher education and paved the way for her sister to do the same. Her mother's encouragement to "get educated, follow your dreams, and go where you need to go" has been a driving force in her advocacy work. Obregon’s mission is to be a voice for those who lack the means or resources to advocate for themselves.

Enedelia often cites the Jewish saying by Rabbi Tarfon, "You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it," as a reminder of her commitment to volunteer work. She believes that everyone can contribute to promoting a better standard of living for retirees and their families. Her dedication is evident in her actions and the impact she has on her community.

During the ice freeze in February 2023, Enedelia experienced firsthand the power of community support when a neighbor brought her family coffee every morning while they were without power. Similarly, after breaking her elbow, another neighbor with four young children offered to take her to physical therapy. These acts of kindness reinforce the AARP message: "With AARP, you don’t have to be a member, but being a member means watching out for others." Obregon embodies this spirit by serving her community through advocacy and legislative efforts, always prioritizing the well-being of others.

Enedelia’s story is a testament to the difference one person can make. Her ongoing efforts remind us of all of the importance of community, compassion, and the responsibility we share to help one another.

## Latest news and bulletin updates

Editor and Media Administrator: Charline Tate

---

### May and June Speaker

#### May 22, 2024: Black History Month

For Black History Month, we were honored to have Harrison Eppright from the Austin Visitor Center deliver an enlightening talk on Austin's Black History. Mr. Eppright's extensive knowledge and engaging storytelling enriched our understanding of the cultural and historical significance of the Black community in Austin. For further exploration, visit the following websites:



- [Visit Austin](#)
- [Six Square](#)
- [Black Austin Tours](#) ([Visit Austin](#)) ([Austin Archives Bazaar](#)).

#### June 18, 2024: Fraud Prevention Presentation

Jessica Lemann, Senior Associate State Director of Outreach & Advocacy, and Enedelia Obregon, the *Legislative Chair* for our chapter and a long-time AARP volunteer in Austin, delivered an insightful presentation on fraud prevention. Given the complexity of the topic, they provided a comprehensive overview, emphasizing the importance of staying vigilant. For more detailed information or specific concerns, please reach out to Enedelia or visit your AARP member site at [aarp Fraud](#).

Stay informed and connected with our community through these enriching and informative events.

Thank you to our speakers for their valuable contributions!

### Meeting Highlights

#### \*\*Treasurer's Report\*\*

Leslie Ashton provided the financial update as of April 30, 2024. The balance stands at \$2,695.98. Dues for 2025, in the amount of \$15, can be paid starting in October 2024.

#### \*\*Travel Update\*\*

Nonie Bell distributed a survey to gather suggestions for future travel destinations. There is also one opening left for the upcoming Michigan trip. Members are reminded that travel waivers need to be returned by July 16.

#### \*\*Membership Report\*\*

Almaree Owens, our Membership Coordinator, reported a total of 109 active members. However, attendance at the last meeting was under 50%. We encourage all members to attend and participate in future meetings to stay engaged with our community.

Stay connected and involved with our chapter's activities and updates. Your participation and feedback are crucial to our ongoing success!

### The Importance of Volunteering: Strengthening Your Community



Volunteering is a powerful way to make a meaningful impact in your community and beyond. By supporting your local organizations, such as the North Austin AARP Chapter 2700, through active participation and involvement, you contribute to the collective strength and well-being of the community.

There are various ways you can support your local chapter. Attending meetings provides valuable insights into community issues and initiatives, allowing you to contribute ideas and perspectives. Sharing your thoughts and experiences helps foster dialogue and promotes understanding among members.

Spreading the word about the chapter's activities and initiatives is crucial for increasing awareness and participation. Whether through social media, word of mouth, or local events, your advocacy can attract new members and supporters.

However, one of the most impactful ways to support your local chapter is through volunteering. There are diverse opportunities available, ranging from hospitality and membership coordination to organizing travel arrangements, engaging in community service projects, and even serving as an elected board member. Each role plays a vital part in the chapter's operations and outreach efforts.

Volunteering not only benefits the organization but also enriches your own life. It allows you to develop new skills, build meaningful relationships, and gain a deeper understanding of community needs and challenges. Moreover, it provides a sense of fulfillment and purpose knowing that your efforts contribute to positive change and collective progress.





# AARP - Real Possibilities

North Austin Chapter 2700  
P.O. Box 201898  
<https://www.AARPChapter2700.com>

May & June 2024

Volume 14  
Issue 3

Latest news and bulletin updates

## Mark Your Calendar: Upcoming Speakers for the Next Few Months



### July 16th, 2024:

The "Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body" program, presented by Faith Lane of the Alzheimer's Association Capital of Texas Chapter, focuses on the connection between brain and body health, highlighting lifestyle choices that can promote healthy aging. The program is based on current research and aims to provide practical tips for maintaining cognitive health.

### August 20, 2024:

The Red Line Parkway Initiative aims to create a welcoming, car-free parkway that connects communities from Downtown Austin to Cedar Park to Leander. This 32-mile linear park will provide a safe space for biking and walking, enhancing travel to area destinations and public spaces. The initiative focuses on planning, funding, building, and activating this parkway, with segments already completed and more in the design phase. The project seeks to unite local, state, and federal support along with private donations to fully realize this vision by the end of the decade.

### September 17, 2024

The AARP HomeFit program, presented by AARP, provides valuable guidance on making homes safer and more comfortable for older adults. The program utilizes the concept of universal design to accommodate people of all abilities and includes both simple modifications and more complex installations to enhance home livability.

### October 15, 2024:

The Austin Wildlife Rescue, presented by Kathryn Mattison, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to rehabilitating and releasing orphaned, injured, and sick wildlife in Central Texas. The organization has been active since 1977 and has helped nearly 10,000 animals. Their goal is to educate the public on how to coexist with native wildlife and provide direct assistance with wildlife issues. The Rescue does not accept exotic pets but focuses on native animals displaced by construction, weather, or human activity.

## Note from Editor

Hello, my name is Charline Tate. I currently manage the newsletter and website for the North Austin AARP Chapter 2700. I relocated to Austin, Texas, in 2007 from Brighton, Michigan. I have four children, six grandchildren, and one great-grandson, none of whom reside in Texas. I am retired from my career as a Project Coordinator in IT and Construction Industry.

I volunteer with **Eternal Faith Baptist Church**, ARTA, and our AARP chapter. I am providing my email and would love to hear your thoughts, suggestions, and ideas on what you would like to see and read about.

It would also be appreciated if you could send photos (from meetings and selfies) and keep me updated on birthdays and anniversaries so we can give them proper recognition. [Charline Tate](#)

**North Austin Chapter 2700**

**Board Members**

**Walter Donnelly, President**  
[wdonnelly@austin.rr.com](mailto:wdonnelly@austin.rr.com)

**Karen Anne Denman, Secretary**  
[karenannedenman4505@yahoo.com](mailto:karenannedenman4505@yahoo.com)

**Enedelia Obregón, Legislative Chair**  
[ejo@austin.rr.com](mailto:ejo@austin.rr.com)

**David Barrera, Vice President**  
[dbarrera14@austin.rr.com](mailto:dbarrera14@austin.rr.com)

**Leslie Ashton, Treasurer**  
[lashton@austin.rr.com](mailto:lashton@austin.rr.com)

**Almaree Owens, Membership Chair**  
[almareeo@gmail.com](mailto:almareeo@gmail.com)

**At-Large Board Members**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Maria Barrera</b></li><li>• <b>Connie M. Acosta</b></li><li>• <b>Waldine Hernandez</b></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Leonard Gonzales</b></li><li>• <b>Joe Ramirez</b></li></ul> |
|---|--|

[Travel Survey](#)

[Membership Form](#)

[Nomination Form](#)