



BLACK FOREST CHAPTER OF AARP #1100

"To serve, not to be served"

Chapter Web Site: <http://aarpchapter1100blackforest.weebly.com>

November 8, 2017

Host/Hostess: Peggy & Scotty Scott, Pat & Herb Guild

Greeter: Don Dinwoodie

Program: Carl McDaniels, Veteran Service Officer, El Paso County

PRESS RELEASE

Community Service Recognized

October 11 was a busy day for the Black Forest AARP Chapter 1100 members. During the monthly potluck lunch & meeting, Russ Miller, Assistant National Vice Commandant, Marine Corps League, Mountain Division, presented a very interesting & informative program about the history of the famous Navajo Code Talkers & their use of their native language to effectively communicate tactical military information in the WW II Pacific theatre. The enemy was never able to "decode" their language or understand the tactics they were discussing over the radio. The result was that the Navajo Code Talkers definitely put U.S. ground forces at an advantage in the Pacific Campaigns.

After the Chapter meeting 17 members traveled up to the Denver Botanic Gardens for the 2017 AARP Colorado Awards ceremony. Chapter 1100 was recognized as the 2017 Platinum Chapter & presented the AARP Chapter Gold Cup. The cup is awarded annually to the best chapter in CO for Community Service. This is the 9th consecutive year Chapter 1100 has received this high honor.

Several individuals in Chapter 1100 also received awards for their outstanding service. Receiving trophies & recognition for their hard work & dedication were:

Charles & Shirley Karlstrum – Community Service Award for organizing & participating in the many successful chapter community service projects over the span of several years.

Ray & Linda Rozak – Community Service Award for each serving individually as project leaders on several occasions over the past years that benefited the community.

Don Dinwoodie – Community Service Award for working tirelessly on Chapter projects as well as being very active in several local area community charitable organizations.

Don & Helen Von Gunden – AARP Program/Strategic Priority Award. For working with the Chapter directly & the public indirectly to ensure that the Chapter operates efficiently year after year.

It should be noted that two other Black Forest organizations were cited for their support to AARP for their community service activities in the Colorado Springs area. These were:

Cindy Richardson – Business Award for Chapter & AARP support while Editor of the Black Forest News and Palmer Divide Pioneer Newspaper.

Black Forest Lutheran Church – Community Partner Award for co-hosting the monthly Senior Social with AARP Chapter 1100, plus many other valuable community initiatives during the past year.

Recently Chapter 1100 provided support to the AARP CO sponsored September Neighborhood Walks in downtown Colorado Springs. In this case Chapter 1100 volunteers provided administrative assistance to AARP CO for the 3 days the Walks were conducted. On another occasion, ten Chapter 1100 volunteers participated in the Gazette Senior Life Expo at the Antlers Hotel on October 7 by providing better living literature & information applicable to all ages.

Historically the Black Forest AARP Chapter volunteers have assisted in many community service activities such as helping move nursing home residents from an old facility to a new facility, conducting food drives, providing Christmas & Easter baskets for unfortunate children, collecting Box Tops for Education, soda pop tops for McDonald House, volunteering at local schools, helping clean up & reforest after the Waldo Canyon & Black Forest fires – to include helping fire victims move into new residences - & hosting free personal document shredding events annually over the past 9 years. The shredding objective is to "Fight Fraud, Shred Instead". The 2017 shredding event, held in June, served 371 individuals who came from 18 postal ZIPs. A total of 15,800 pounds of paper were shredded & recycled. The free-will donations by these individuals yielded 610 pounds of non-perishable food & \$1,123 in cash – all of which was donated to a local food bank.

Chapter 1100 is the only AARP chapter in the greater Colorado Springs area. It was established 45 years ago and meets at noon the second Wednesday of the month. Membership is open to all ages. The Chapter motto and goal is "To Serve not to be Served".



Our AARP Black Forest Chapter #1100 has won the Colorado Chapter Cup for the 9th consecutive year. The Chapter ALSO received the \$250.00 award.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE THIS POSSIBLE!





Russ Miller, USMC Retired, gave an interesting presentation on the history of the famous Navajo Code Talkers at the October 11th meeting. He's been invited back to provide more information on this interesting & historically significant group.

Denver Botanic Gardens "You Make A Difference" 2017 Volunteer Recognition Awards



Angela Cortez, AARP Associate State Director Communications presents the AARP CO Gold Cup to Charles Karlstrum, President, AARP Chapter 1100 in Black Forest.



Some of the AARP Chapter members & guests are shown attending the Awards Ceremony at the Denver Botanic Gardens. AARP Chapter 1100 occupied tables in the foreground.



Chapter members attending the AARP CO Awards event at the Denver Botanic Gardens - many holding their awards. Jeremiah Mora, AARP Associate State Director-Community Outreach, in the foreground, holds the AARP Cup.



Members of Black Forest AARP Chapter 1100 were awarded 6 individual awards plus the Chapter was presented with the AARP CO Chapter Cup for the 9th consecutive year. The cup is presented annually to a Colorado Chapter for service to the community.

Congratulations on a great job completing the Chapter Cup Award application. If you want to know how much work goes into this ask Chuck or Stan to show you a copy of the 7 page "CO 2016-2017 Chapter Cup Application" which details all the work done in the past year by our members.

FINANCE**Black Forest AARP Chapter 1100 Financial Report**

10/1/2017 Beginning Checking Account Balance \$3,514.45

	MONTHLY	2017 YEAR TO DATE
Income		
Dues received for 2017		\$320.00
2018 rec'd in 2017		\$10.00
Gifts or Donations		\$396.15
Social Events: 50/50 Drawing		\$145.00
Advertising Income		
TOTAL INCOME	\$0.00	\$871.15
Expense		
Meeting Expense		\$145.00
Gifts or Donations		\$321.15
Social Events:		
Picnic site rental fee		\$100.00
Supplies (sugar, cups, plates)		\$27.66
Anniversary cake		\$32.23
Chapter Holiday Dinners		
Administrative Cost	\$5.38	\$19.13
Newsletter Cost		\$49.00
Other		\$57.88
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$5.38	\$752.05
10/31/17 Checking Account Balance		\$3,509.07
CD Account Interest todate in 2017		\$1.04
CD Account Balance		\$1,041.51

**CHAPTER COMMITTEES**

Health Care: Wash your hands. Waldo has a list of members willing to loan walkers, etc. so if you need one, or have one to loan, please contact him. If you have questions check with Waldo.

Notification: Thanks to Pat Guild & Anita Wolfe for their work on the monthly telephone member notifications & President Karlstrum for notifying members via e-mail.

Public Relations: PSAs were sent to 9 local newspapers, the Gazette blog & posted to our website regarding our Chapter related activities and information.

Sunshine: Get well cards were sent to Helen Von Gunden & Lavonne Hidy. A sympathy cards was sent to the Karlstrum family on the death of Chuck's brother Delmar. (Electa is the Sunshine Committee & can be reached at 596-6787. Please call her directly so she doesn't hear about a member second hand as mentioned in this newsletter.

- **Visit the Chapter website** at <http://aarpchapter1100blackforest.weebly.com/> so you too can see the latest Chapter information and upcoming events. Many people visit our website during the month and our members find it useful.
- **Good news!** We now have a 2nd person authorized to keep up the Chapter web site. THANK YOU to Denny Wilson for stepping up.
- **The "Black Forest AARP Volunteer Drivers"**, which serves the Black Forest & Colorado Springs area, have offered to assist our homebound members & their neighbors. Volunteer drivers Linda Siebe & Lori Belk would like to remind all Chapter members they can contact Linda for transportation at (719) 433-6205. Perhaps you're without a ride to chapter meetings or to a Doctor's appointment; can no longer drive; are having car problems or have an urgent need to go shopping. Give Linda a call and one of them will take you where you need to go. *This is a free service in the experimental stage during 2017 and if no one participates it won't be available in 2018.*

Report on the Senior Life Expo at the Antlers Hotel, Colorado Springs, October 7, 2017, by Stan Beckner

A community event offering seniors the latest products, services & information on healthy aging

The Expo event went very well. The Gazette reported they expected 2-3,000 to attend the event. I believe it. I would say that most of the attendees stopped by our AARP table.

The Expo opened officially at 8:30. We had a good crew of 10 Chapter volunteers on hand - spread out at various times during the day. They worked hard. We used up all the stock of "Count me In" survey forms by 10 am. All the nice give-away items, including many red AARP T-Shirts, were gone well before noon. By closing time at 4 pm, we had little literature remaining. The completed survey forms were sent to Denver.

The most common questions we received were with regard to health insurance & AARP benefits & discounts. We also received some questions about AARP Tax Aide & Driver Safety. Driver Safety had a table at the Expo so we easily referred individuals to them. Tax Aide was not represented.

A Gazette videographer came around & interviewed me late in the day. I reported that we were very happy with the turnout & success of the event & that I would be looking forward to a similar event in the future. Many others were interviewed, so I don't know if my interview will go anywhere. Supposedly the interview could appear on SeniorLifeExpoCS.com

Here are some pictures taken at the Expo:



Electa, Pat, Shirley, Linda, Ray and Bev



Electa, Shirley and Bev



Linda, Electa, Pat and Bev

Maybe not pictured but THANK YOU to all who worked this Expo: Ray & Lin Rozak, Pat Dix, Linda Siebe, Chuck & Shirley Karlstrum, Waldo Pendleton, Bev Schaab and Electa & Stan Beckner.

Secretary's Report - October 11th meeting

President Chuck Karlstrum called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m. then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Janet, an assistant at Black Forest Lutheran Church offered an invocation. Members celebrating birthdays this month are Lori Belk, Rita Fitzpatrick, Herb Guild & Bill Sanderman. Stan & Electa Beckner are celebrating their 54th anniversary this month. Guests were Russ Miller, our speaker for the meeting, Willie & Renee McCurdy & Lee & Gayle Bollier.

After lunch, Russ Miller gave us a brief overview of the Navajo Nation & then explained how the Navajo Code Talkers started & how influential they were in helping the United States win the war in the Pacific theatre. Russ will return in 2018 hopefully for a longer time because the talk was truly interesting.

Chuck encouraged all members to observe a "Make a Difference Day" in October. That means that we will select some personal project to help someone else or to benefit an organization.

He noted that Lori Belk has taken over the position of Lunch Coordinator. Pat Guild & Anita Wolfe will do the phone call meeting notifications for the chapter.

He reminded those of us who will go to Denver for the Awards Ceremony to take along the registration that was e-mailed to us.

The Salvation Army stockings are due in November.

Driver's Training will be held in the BFLC hall on October 16th. Stephen Blucher announced that he had 3 persons signed up for the course, & encouraged anyone who hasn't signed up yet to do so.

Chuck announced that Lavonne Hidy has agreed to take over the Awards Committee. Ted Lunacek agreed to assist her. Chuck reminded members that if they want to be part of the chapter, they need to take part in Chapter operations.

The slate of officers for 2018 submitted by Lavonne Hidy of the Nominations Committee is: President, Patricia Dix, Vice President, Charles Karlstrum, Secretary, Rita Fitzpatrick & Treasurer, Shirley Karlstrum. The first reading of the slate of officers & board will be at the November Meeting. The next board meeting will be on November 3rd at the IHOP on Stetson Hills and Powers at 11:30 a.m.

The next Senior Social will be held on October 25th at the church.

The Senior Life Expo held at the Antlers Hotel was very successful with 10 members volunteering their time to staff the AARP Booth. Another AARP booth will be staffed by our members at the Senior Center on Hancock Avenue on October 21st. Enough volunteers have signed up for this event.

Cindy Richards of Black Forest News e-mailed her thanks for the AARP Business Award. Helen Von Gunden sent a thank-you note to the Chapter for the Reception for Don Von Gunden.

The door prize & 50/50 drawings were held to benefit our catering fund.

Respectfully submitted, Rita Fitzpatrick, Secretary



- **The annual SRC HOLIDAY DINNER DANCE will be on December 9th at 5 PM at the Colorado Springs Civic Auditorium, 221 E. Kiowa St.** The sit-down dinner is **FREE** but you must make reservations. **After November 1st e-mail info@srccos.org to make reservations.** Plan to go with other Chapter members. Ask to be seated at the AARP Table. Free Parking will be available behind the Auditorium & in the parking garage across the street from the Auditorium.
- **Has anyone heard any of the radio ads?** The OVE (AARP Office of Volunteer Engagement) has sponsored radio & digital ads for a group of AARP Chapters recommended by the AARP CAT (Chapter Advisory Team) of which Stan Beckner is a member. The fall advertising campaign, to include [Black Forest Chapter 1100](#), ran from the end of September through October. The goal was to create/increase awareness about the selected Chapters (ours is one selected) & to direct potential members to them.

Looking to get more involved in the community you love?

Sample of a radio script:

Posted on 10/2/2017 by [Jeremiah Mora](#) | [AARP Colorado](#) | [Comments: 0](#)

Join the Blackforest AARP Chapter ! It's your chance to help make your community an even better place to live, work and play. As a member, you'll get the chance to engage in many different outreach activities, where you'll be able to give back, meet new people in the area, and work on issues in your community. You can tap you own potential while helping to improve the community you love. [Learn more online.](#)

Let Chuck or Stan know if you

heard one of these ads.

Thanks. Helen



Safe Online Shopping

'Tis the season for excessive shopping & since many people will purchase their holiday gifts online, this is a good time to brush up on some internet safety tips. Here are a few reminders for protecting your personal and financial information while shopping online:

- Don't share your banking information while using free public Wi-Fi or public computers.
- Only shop on secure sites that begin with "https" and/or display a padlock in your browser.
- Verify the reputation of the online merchant. If you are unsure about a merchant do your research.
- Make sure your computer & browser security features are installed & updated.
- Confirm a working customer service phone number in case you have issues with the product.
- Avoid shopping for a product based upon unsolicited emails, texts or pop-up advertisements.
- Be suspicious if you are shopping for a product & one site is offering unbelievably lower prices than any other site. They may be trying to collect personal information or sell knock-off products.
- Read the fine print, terms & conditions & return policy before finalizing any purchase.
- Only use a credit card when shopping online, avoid any less conventional forms of payment like money orders.
- Keep a record of your purchase on file in case you need to reference it in the future.
- Regularly check your credit card statements to ensure all transactions are authorized by you.

If you are concerned about the safety & security of your information online, you always have the option to shop over the phone or in a store. To report online fraud to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center visit www.ic3.gov or call an AARP Foundation ElderWatch volunteer specialist. 800-222-4444 Option 2

November is CO Consumer Protection Month (#CCPM2017). Learn more & find resources at: www.stopfraudcolorado.gov/ccpm

This newsletter was published and distributed with the assistance of the following merchants:

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Rockin B Feed and Supply . Feed, hay, pet foods, health supplies, saddles, tack. www.rockinbfeed.co	(719) 495-3463 12440 Black Forest Rd., 80908
The Original Black Forest Pies & Grinders Pizza, subs, wings & more. Dine in – Take out – Delivery	(719) 495-8555 11470 Black Forest Rd., 80908
Chiropractic of Black Forest . Dr. Russell T. Swain Walk-ins always welcome	(719) 494-0900 11590 Black Forest Rd.# 20, 80908

"Acceptance of advertising or other assistance in this newsletter does not constitute endorsement or approval of this chapter of AARP of any service, product or advertiser."

- **REMINDER FROM RAY** - He needs items for the monthly door prize drawings. Remember this is a Chapter fund-raising activity. Those who attended the July Picnic enjoyed food purchased with money collected through these drawings rather than from the Treasury.
- **There's no Senior Social during the holiday months - November and December. To return in January 2018.**
- **REMINDER OF CHAPTER MEETING CANCELLATION POLICY:**
If School District 20 cancels classes, or is on late reporting, Chapter meetings will not take place.

******* IMPORTANT!!! CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON:** Please arrive early—before 12:00. The **program will start at 12:00** Electa Beckner & the Colorado Springs Recorder Group will entertain us with Christmas music selections. **Lunch**, prepared by the Golden Corral with sides & desserts by the Chapter members, will be **served at 12:30**.