



BLACK FOREST CHAPTER OF AARP #1100

"To serve, not to be served"

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

May 8, 2019

Host/Hostess: Beverly Schaab, Sharon Fulton

Greeter: Kenneth Fulton

Program: Mt. View Electric. "Saving energy in the home". Sarah Schaefer

Fighting Fraud

Fraud & ID Theft in CO were the subjects of the April Chapter 1100 meeting program. The program was presented by Mark Fetterhoff, AARP ElderWatch Program Manager, who discussed the ten most common scams in CO in 2018. He also fielded many questions from the membership about nefarious operators who attempt to prey on honest individuals. Mark also described the recent changes within AARP which involved the Foundation & the publication of the Smart Tips & Scam Alerts by ElderWatch. Currently Scam Alert bulletins & Smart Tips for consumers can be viewed on the Chapter 1100 web site, & on the AARP Fraud Watch Network.

ElderWatch, based in Denver, partners with Chapter 1100 to provide an annual FREE shredding event in Black Forest. This year the shredding will be on June 15 from 9AM to Noon at the Black Forest Lutheran Church, 12455 Black Forest Road. This will be the 11th year that this service has been made available to the public. The shredding is an ongoing effort to reduce the exposure of citizens to possible scams or identification theft by providing a safe means of destroying sensitive personal documents. The professional shredding service is provided free as a service to the community. No reservations are needed to participate. Simply bring your personal documents for shredding and afterwards pause for a free cup of coffee and a pastry. Fight Fraud – Shred Instead!!

After the usual outstanding potluck lunch President Rozak discussed several upcoming Chapter activities including the Black Forest Festival in August. He also obtained membership approval to donate some specific future funds to Shield 616, a local non-profit (501(c)3 charity formed to get local police department personnel armor packages to protect them from rifle threats. The armor package includes a ballistic helmet, plate carrier vest, rifle rated armor, & a trauma kit.

Recently Chapter 1100 members participated in a community service outreach project by helping fabricate Easter baskets for underprivileged children locally and in the San Louis valley.



Chapter 1100 President, Ray Rozak (L), AARP ElderWatch Program Manager Mark Fetterhoff, (C), & Jim Belk (R), Chapter Shredding Project Leader, met to discuss plans for the June 15 Free shredding event at the Black Forest Lutheran Church.

Lexie Manfrin's family is hosting a Remembrance service at the Black Forest Community Church on Saturday, May 18th, at 2 PM.

Lexie was one of the original members of Chapter 1100 & although she wasn't able to attend our meetings these past few years she was always thought of fondly.

The family requests your presence but don't bring any food.

Secretary's Report - April 10th meeting

President Ray Rozak called the meeting to order then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. An invocation was offered by Janet Gould of the Black Forest Lutheran Church. We celebrated anniversaries for March for Scott & Kathy Miller & for April with Stephen & Jean Blucher. Wished Happy Birthdays for March to Jim Belk, Stephen Blucher, Karen Buck, Waldo Pendleton, ViJay Verma & Kathy Miller. Our April Birthdays are Stan Beckner & Durell Pithney.

After a hearty & very good lunch our guest speaker was Mark Fetterhoff from AARP Elder Watch in Denver. He's here to keep us up to date on scams, which are everywhere & unfortunately some people are drawn in. On our tables were papers that Mark left for us to read & take home. One that's been around for a while is the Imposture Scam. This works very well, because it's meant to scare you, and it does. You get a call from a young person saying Gramma or Grampa I'm in trouble and need money for any number of reasons. Thinking it's true you send money. Before you send anything ask questions that only you're grandchild can answer. If they cannot answer, then hang up. The Social Security scam is the most popular - they can sound very convincing and try to pressure you to comply. What We Know is that Social Security never ever calls! Neither does the IRS. So Hang up. Any government agency will contact you by mail, not the phone. Here's one that Ray loves, "We're in your neighborhood doing: roofing, windows, driveways etc. & noticed your ? needs repair. Now Ray starts, he says which neighbor are you at? I'd like to see what your work looks like, or, no you're not in my neighborhood, I have a ranch 30 miles from any city. Ray just has fun with them, then hangs up. How about "You just won a lottery or sweepstakes, all you have to do is send us the money for the taxes" Really? Seriously? I mean I was born at night, but not last night. This scam is also on the internet, if you haven't seen it, wait a while. The internet has a lot of scams going on. The one that gets me laughing is they send a message that you have a virus & if you call us we'll take care of it & your computer will be just fine. I think all of us have some kind of protection for our computers so if you didn't get a message from your provider it isn't true. Call your provider, do not call the number they give you. If you think something doesn't sound right hang up, call the police or call Elder Watch, they'll help you. I look at our caller ID, if I don't know the number, I don't pick up. The phone is a convenience, just because it's ringing doesn't mean you have to pick it up, let who ever leave a message. Show these scammers we're smarter than they are. Mark did say that ElderWatch is putting a lot more time into investigating the scams that are going around.

- We talked about the money we get from Shredding, no one had any suggestions & Ray brought up Shield 616 (we've put brochures on each table) everyone liked the idea & a vote passed.
- Gwen Burke has asked for flower pots, she has a lot of plants started & needs more pots for the Black Forest Festival.
- Jim Belk has confirmation on a date for the Shredding, & is looking into finding a pizza place that has gluten free pizzas & that will deliver.
- Thanks to Lori & Jim for the cork board & Ray & Lin for the easel.

Respectfully submitted, Lin Rozak

From the Editor: *A few of us were talking about the measles surge at the Board meeting last week & I said I would put this information in our newsletter. This probably doesn't affect any of us but could be a problem for our children. The key is only 1 shot was given to the children born between 1967 and 1989, which includes mine, and they should get a blood test to see if they are immune. Hope this information is helpful. Helen*

Dr. Siegel told "America's Newsroom" hosts on Tuesday that a primary reason the CDC is informing the public about these skyrocketing numbers is so that individuals born between 1963 and 1989 know that they should be checked by a physician to ensure their vaccines were successful.

"If you were born in the 1960s... you may have gotten a vaccine that doesn't work very well, and you may need another one," Dr. Siegel said. Specifically, he added, those born between the years of 1963 and 1967 should make sure their vaccines were effective.

If you were born between those years, he said, it's possible that you aren't immune to measles. If you were born between the years of 1967 and 1989, Dr. Siegel added, doctors were only giving one shot of the vaccine instead of the current practice of two. Therefore you may only have partial immunity if you were vaccinated in those years.

Checking for immunity is as easy as getting a blood test, Dr. Siegel added.

FINANCE

Black Forest AARP Chapter 1100 Financial Report

As of the January 4, 2019 Board of Directors meeting we will no longer include the Chapter Financial Report in our monthly newsletter. Instead the Treasurer will update the membership as to the current account balances, income & expenses during the monthly meeting.

CHAPTER COMMITTEES

Community Service Committee: Donations to the Black Forest Care food bank from the April meeting totaled \$31.00 Thank you to all who made this possible.

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.

*** Max Stucky has 3 walkers if anybody needs to use one. Please talk to him.

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

Public Relations: PSAs were sent to 9 local newspapers, the Gazette blog & posted to our website regarding Chapter related recent activities Thank you Stan.

Sunshine: Electa sent a sympathy card for Alberta Davis to her family & a get well card to Stan Beckner. (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.)

- **Visit the Chapter website** at <http://aarpchapter1100blackforest.weebly.com/> so you too can see the latest Chapter information & upcoming events. Many people visit our website during the month & our members find it useful.
- **REMINDER OF CHAPTER MEETING CANCELLATION POLICY:**
If School District 20 cancels classes, or is on late reporting, Chapter meetings will not take place.
- **Senior Social** - The Senior Social will be held on May 22nd in the Meeting Hall of the Black Forest Lutheran Church. Join other seniors for various games, or just visit.
- **REMINDER ABOUT THE MONTHLY DOOR PRIZE DRAWINGS** - The new person in charge (?) of this activity will need items for the monthly door prize drawings, 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.

HOME SURVIVAL by Lin Rozak - During our last blizzard many of us were without electricity for many days. There are things to keep in your house so you can be comfortable. Here's a few:

- I collect oil lamps, so we could have light for a long time. Candles in jars are really nice, no worry about burning your house down if you fall asleep. If you don't have any in small jars, find a large jar, or a bowl works. Candles float, find a container & fill it with water & see if you have candles that float. Battery powered flashlights - make sure you have a supply of the right size batteries.
- Collect water - fill milk cartons, have several, fill them up as you get them. You need drinking water, water to wash with, cook with & water to flush the toilet. If you have a well & no power the toilet won't work. Take a large pan outside & scoop up snow, let it melt, take a coffee filter & pour it through. It'll be clean, use it like you use regular water. Have a case of bottled water. It keeps forever, put it in the garage. Everyone has a hot water tank, there you have 30 or more gallons of clean drinking water.
- Make sure you know how to light your stove & gas fireplace - without electric ignitors. A large metal can with a candle inside will produce heat. It won't keep your whole house warm, but keep it by you & you'll be warm.
- Hand crank can openers. Buy cans with pull tabs.
- Cell phones need charging. Do you have a car charger? Use your car to charge different items. Just don't let it run in your garage for a long time, it could kill you.
- Find an old phone with wires, learn how to hook them up. They work without electricity & they're not that expensive. Find them at garage sales & thrift shops.
- You can cook outside on your grill. Be sure to have extra propane tanks.
- If you have a generator make sure everyone in your house knows how to hook it up & start it. Do not put it in the garage, or in an enclosed porch. The fumes can kill you. Make sure you have extra fuel to keep it running for a long time, or run it during the day, disconnect it at night.

That's all I can think of, I'm sure you have other ways to survive without electricity. Share them with all of us.

THANKS LIN - GOOD INFORMATION. Helen

Avoid Phony Grant Offers

Phony government grant offers are one of the trickiest scams out there. Even though collecting cash sounds nice, anytime you receive an offer for "free money" that seems "too good to be true" you should go with your instinct and ignore it. Phony grant offers are scams designed to steal your money and personal information. Here are some tips to avoid government grant scams:

- ⇒ Fake grant offers often come through social media sites like Facebook. If a friend or family member alerts you of an offer like this online, understand that Facebook profiles can be mimicked or hijacked and it is likely not the person who you think it is contacting you.
- ⇒ Scam offers will also come on the phone. Hang up on anyone calling from "government grant office." Remember that scammers often spoof their number on caller ID to make it look legitimate.
- ⇒ Whether it is for a grant or a prize, you should NEVER have to send money to receive money. No matter how convincing the reason (taxes, processing fees, etc.) don't send money in any form!
- ⇒ Fake grant officers might ask for your bank account to "deposit the money" or Social Security number to "verify your identity." Never provide personal or financial information to anyone who contacts you unsolicited.
- ⇒ Actual government grants are rarely created for individuals or families, just another reason to be skeptical of any such offer.

If you have any questions about government grant scams or any other type of fraud/scam issue contact the AARP ElderWatch at 1-800-222-4444, option 2, to connect with a volunteer specialist.

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Free Shredding - MARK YOUR CALENDAR - the AARP FREE community shredding event will be from **9 AM to Noon on June 15th at the Black Forest Lutheran Church**, 12455 Black Forest Road. Three boxes or paper bags of unneeded personal & financial documents will be shredded, onsite, by a professional document shredding company. Reservations not required.

Fight Fraud – Shred Instead!