



## BLACK FOREST CHAPTER OF AARP #1100

"To serve, not to be served"

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

December 11, 2019

**Host/Hostess:** Helen Von Gunden, Lavonne Hidy  
**Greeters:** Electa and Stan Beckner  
**Program:** Fermata's Recorder Group playing Christmas music

**CHAPTER 1100'S NOVEMBER was very busy** so I'm going to jump right in and share all our activities with our Chapter members and hope I don't forget any event or person. Helen (subbing for Stan)

- \* Our November 13th Chapter meeting was packed with activities, members & guests. We had an extremely interesting time listening to Jake Skifstad who explained the origins & the necessity for the Shield 616 program. He then gave a reenactment of the Planned Parenthood shooting & the reasons these new vests & helmets are needed by our police & fire personnel. Mariel (Anita's granddaughter) & Rebecca (the Interim Youth Director & Pastor Ken's daughter) modeled the helmet and vests worn by firefighters and peace officers. The Chapter raised \$1,429 then added \$71 to this amount in order to give Shield 616 a check for \$1,500 towards one new kit for a first responder.



- \* Lavonne presented 5 year Longevity Badges to Pat & Herb, Patricia, Stephen, Roberta & Linda. Thank you to the recipients for all you do for this Chapter. (Linda's will be mailed to her since she has moved.) A "special" Longevity Badge was presented to Gwen in recognition of her 25 years with the Chapter. A "thank you" to Lavonne for her work in the Membership Committee & to Stan for creating the badges.



- \* Our military veterans & widows were recognized at this meeting & a picture was taken of each group. Veterans in attendance were (front) Anita, Howard, Waldo. (back) Chuck, Ray, Electa, Jim & Lynn. Absent were: Denny, Carol, Herb, Ken & Stan. Thank you all for your service! The military widows recognized were (front) Rosemary, Beverly, Anna, Lavonne & Mary Lou. (back) Gwen, Anita, Patricia & Helen.



\* Drawings were held for the two quilts Shirley designed & constructed. Anita won the veteran's drawing & received the American Flag quilt. Bev won the patriotic table runner Shirley made for the widow's drawing. Congratulations!



And the last picture of the day is of Raji (our new Vice-President !!!) with Howard, a WW II veteran, & his friend, and fellow member, Waldo - enjoying the moment.



**A special thanks** to Mariel, Raji & Helen for taking many pictures & forwarding them for this newsletter.

**THE HIGH ACTIVITY LEVEL CONTINUED** with our participation in the Senior Resource Council's "Holiday Dinner Dance". A few of us met at the Senior Center on Friday afternoon 11/15 to stuff bags with the other volunteers. (Electa, Helen, Raji & Vijay & Stephen).



Then the next morning at 9 AM the same people met at the City Auditorium to set up the tables for dinner, for 500 people, & decorate the Auditorium for the festive dinner. (They do have coffee & bagels on hand at 9 so that helps!)

That night our Chapter members got all dressed up for dinner & dancing as we've done in the past. A good time was had by all. Attending the dinner were Ray & Lin, Pat G., Raji & Vijay, Bev, Stephen, Anna, Patricia & Electa.



(2 photos necessary to capture all.)

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

**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 & thank you Patricia Dix for notifying members via e-mail.

**Public Relations:** PSAs were sent to 8 local newspapers, the Gazette blog & posted to our website regarding Chapter related recent activities. Thank you Stan.

**Sunshine:** A Get Well card was sent to: Ray Rozak. (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 next Senior Social will be held on January 22nd in the new year.

### Secretary's Report - November 13th meeting

The November meeting was called to order by President Ray Rozak. He led us in the Pledge of Allegiance & Jeanette Gould, Director of Ministries at Black Forest Lutheran Church, presented an invocation based on Service of U. S. Veterans. President Rozak welcomed a large number of guests & wished a Happy Birthday to the following: Pat Guild, Roberta Hagmaier, Chuck Karlstrum, Joyce Asche & guest Betty Kyle. Celebrating an Anniversary were: Herb & Pat Guild. Guests, Birthday & Anniversary folks were invited to lead the line to partake in the bounteous turkey-ham dinner. Main dishes were catered with side dishes, salads & desserts being provided by the membership. Hosts for the meeting were Patricia Dix & Herb & Pat Guild.

The afternoon program began with Paula Blair, a Case Manager from the Tri-Lakes Community Resource Center, explaining the services they provide & highlighting the fact they provide fresh fruits & vegetables several times a week. They are located at 235 N. Jefferson in historic downtown Monument. You are welcome to visit this facility.

President Rozak introduced Jake Skifstad, founder of Shield 616, who presented a fascinating story of his experiences during two shootings in the Colorado Springs area. He first related his experience during the shooting at New Life Church. Then as a member of the Swat Team he had first-hand experience of the shooting on Thanksgiving 2015 at the Colorado Springs office of Planned Parenthood. He related to us the inside story with many facts that were not publicized during the stand-off at that site. What a privilege to hear this dedicated officer's story. As a consequence of his involvement in these two shootings he established the Shield 616 project. Its purpose is to outfit every law enforcement officer, first responder & firemen with a hard vest & helmet. Jake demonstrated the hard shields that are added front & back to the protective vests. One vest costs \$2,200.00. Following this impressive presentation President Rozak presented Officer Jake Skifstad with a check for \$1,500.00 from our AARP Chapter #1100 toward the purchase of one unit.

Beverly Schaab was called on to give the Nominating Committee report for the slate of officers & Board of Directors for next year 2020!! No candidates had been found for the office of President or Vice-President. Other nominees are: Secretary - Patricia Dix; Treasurer - Anita Wolfe; 1 year Board of Directors, 2020 - 2021: Waldo Pendleton, Jim Belk, & Beverly Schaab. 2 year Board of Directors, 2020 -2022: Helen Von Gunden, Chuck Karlstrum & Lavonne Hidy. President Rozak urged everyone to think about what can be done to fill the office of President. One is needed for our group to stay in existence!!

Lavonne Hidy, Membership Chairperson, reported that as of this date our Chapter has 51 members. We have welcomed 8 new members in 2019. Two members have moved out of state & two members passed away this year.

Lavonne explained briefly the process involved in keeping the membership records current & then announced recipients of the Longevity badge representing 5 years of membership: Stephen Blucher, Patricia Dix, Herb Guild, Pat Guild, Roberta Hagmaier & Linda Siebe. The next Longevity Award, for 25 years membership, was presented to Gwen Burk. Lavonne gave a brief summary of the contributions Gwen & her parents had made to the AARP Chapter & the Black Forest Community through many years of community service. Gwen was presented a gift card to Village Inn and a new book on the life of Ethel Percy Andrus, founder of AARP. A Thank you to Stan Beckner for making the Longevity Badges - and he also makes our Name Tags.

Shirley Karlstrum recognized Chapter members who were Veterans of the various armed forces branches. The Veterans were called forward & identified what branch they had served in, their rank & other information they decided to share. They were thanked for their service & then a group photo was taken. Veteran's widows were then called forward & a group photo was taken of them. Shirley Karlstrum, a marvelous quilter & seamstress, designed & constructed a beautiful American Flag quilt for the Veteran's drawing & a patriotic table runner for the widow's drawing. The Flag quilt for Veterans was won by Anita Wolfe & the table runner, for a veterans widow, was won by Beverly Schaab. Sincere thanks to Shirley Karlstrum for her dedication to honoring our Vets each November.

Following open discussion new Chapter member, Candance Lehmann, volunteered to be President & Raji Verma volunteered to be Vice President. These ladies will need our support & help next year.

Meeting closed with our usual drawings.

Respectfully submitted,

Lavonne Hidy, Assistant Secretary (Lyn - Hope your wrist heals rapidly!!)

*(Editor: Thank you Lavonne for very informative minutes.)*

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Dear Members, **Here's the "Menu Schedule" for 2020.** I've divided up the groups according to the last names on our membership roster so that each group will be about the same size. Our membership has changed slightly from last year so the groups have changed a bit also. The list for 2019 had January 2020 and February 2020 included; please notice that they have changed slightly because of our changing membership.

JANUARY: A thru D bring Main Entrée; E thru O bring Side dish/Salad; P thru W bring Dessert

FEBRUARY: A thru D bring Side dish/Salad; E thru O bring Dessert; P thru W bring Main Entrée

MARCH: Catered lunch at the Lutheran Church. \$5 per person. Sides & desserts will be provided by the AARP Board. Reservations required so we can get an accurate count.

APRIL: A thru D bring Dessert; E thru O bring Main Entrée; P thru W bring Side dish/Salad

MAY: A thru D bring Main Entrée; E thru O bring Side dish/Salad; P thru W bring Dessert

JUNE: A thru D bring Side dish/Salad; E thru O bring Dessert; P thru W bring Main

JULY: Annual picnic at Black Forest Park. The Main Entrée & Sides are provided by the Board, members are asked to bring a dessert or side to share.

AUGUST: NO Meeting

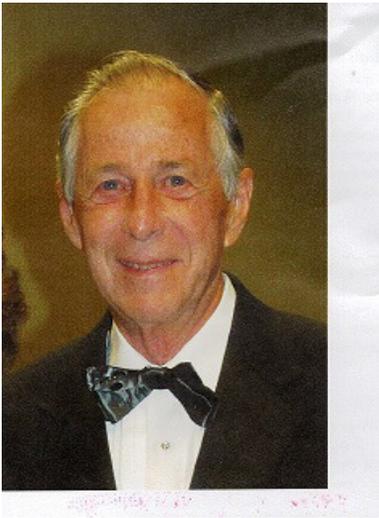
SEPTEMBER: Meeting is at a restaurant. Place is undetermined at this time; to be announced.

OCTOBER: A thru D bring Dessert; E thru O bring Main Entrée; P thru W bring Side dish/Salad

NOVEMBER: Our Main Dinner is catered. A thru K bring Side dish/Salad; L thru W bring Dessert

DECEMBER: Our Main Dinner is catered. A thru K bring Dessert; L thru W bring Side dish/Salad

***(Editor: This list will also appear on the back page of the 2020 Annual Handbook.)***



It is with sorrow that we notify you of the death of a former member of our Chapter - Don Dinwoodie.

A Memorial Service was held In Black Forest Friday, December 6, 2019 at Our Lady of the Pines Catholic Church and a few members who knew Don, and worked with him on Chapter committees/projects, attended.

Donald Gilbert Dinwoodie, age 83, passed away peacefully at home in Black Forest, on November 17, 2019. He was born on January 18, 1936 in Boston, MA, grew up in Boston, West Springfield, MA, as well as Haddonfield, NJ. He served in the US Army, stationed in Wiesbaden, Germany from 1959-1961.

He was married to Margo (Dargin) O'Malley from 1965-1991 & later met his great love, Elaine Gagne, in Loveland, CO. They were married on December 18, 1993.

Don loved learning. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Colby College; Masters in Education from Springfield College; and Masters in Arts from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

Not only did he have an extensive career as the Director of the YMCA (MA, MI, CO), a City Planner for Colorado Springs, a Leadership Development Consultant, Certified Coach, & a Real Estate broker in Colorado Springs. Don also was an active member of his Church, Our Lady of the Pines Catholic Church, & his Community. Donald Founded EDUCO Colorado (Wilderness Training & Leadership Development for youth); was on multiple Civic boards (Latest Award in 2017 AARP Outstanding Community Service Award); & was part of the Parkinson's Support Group. Don has been part of the same men's group for over 40 years; they refer to him as "Mahatmadondi." He also loved being outdoors gardening & cross-country skiing.

Don's family and many friends enjoyed his loving heart, his insights and wisdom on life, & his willingness to always be helpful to those in need.

*(The above was taken from the obituary published by [http://www.returntonaturecolorado.com/donald\\_gilbert\\_dinwoodie/](http://www.returntonaturecolorado.com/donald_gilbert_dinwoodie/))*

*We in the Chapter saw, and benefited, from his willingness to always be helpful to those in need. He was always the first to volunteer for a project and help where he was needed. Rest in peace Don. You are, and have been, missed.*

**Notes from Lavonne** – My sincere thanks to those of you who donated plastic ice cream buckets, jar flats & materials for bean bags. 39 Play Pails were assembled & sent to La Puente in October. The cardboard rolls from Saran Wrap are needed to help make Easter egg wrappers for Easter projects 2020. Help will be needed in February to assemble plastic eggs & make Bunnies from lunch sacks. Watch for workshop dates!!

Black Forest Lutheran Church will be holding a Book Stew in January 2020. If you have books to donate bring them to the January AARP meeting. Money donated at the Book Stew will be given to the local Veterans Program administered by the Salvation Army.

## GIVE WISELY

Before you donate to charities this holiday season, do your research to make sure your hard-earned money is going to the intended cause. A 2018 AARP ElderWatch survey found that 42% of Coloradans 50+ believed they received a request from a fake or fraudulent charity in the last 12 months. Furthermore, 34% of those surveyed said they rarely or never research the organization or cause prior to making a donation. The following are a few tips to help make sure that your donation is truly benefitting the intended cause:

- Never give payment information to an unsolicited caller.
- Ask for a registration number of the solicitor/charity.
- Ask the solicitor how much of the donation will go to the charity & how much goes to the solicitor.
- Give locally to organizations you know do positive work in your community.
- Do your research. Be wary if the charity fails to provide information about finances. Reputable charities will provide the information if requested.
- Watch out for charities with names that sound similar to well-known organizations. These similar sounding names are intended to confuse those who give.
- Do not pay in cash, donate by credit card, when possible.
- Beware of unsolicited email. Instead, go directly to the organization's website or call to make donations.
- Make a plan for your yearly giving & contact those organizations directly. Before you give, visit [www.checkthecharity.com](http://www.checkthecharity.com) to verify the charity is authorized to solicit donations in CO. **Additional charity watchdog sites to check include [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org) & [www.give.org](http://www.give.org). If you don't have access to the internet, call the AARP ElderWatch at 1-800-222-4444, option 2, to speak with a volunteer specialist who can help check the charity for you.**

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

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Please sign up at the December meeting to work on the Chapter's various committees during 2020.

**A SIGN UP SHEET WILL BE GOING AROUND TODAY FOR HOST/HOUSTESS & GREETER FOR THE 9 MEETINGS HELD AT THE MEETING HALL. LET'S HAVE SOME NEW PEOPLE SIGN UP FOR THIS RATHER THAN THE SAME PEOPLE DOING IT EVERY YEAR. THANKS. Helen**