



## BLACK FOREST CHAPTER OF AARP #1100

"To serve, not to be served"

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

January 13, 2016

**Hostesses:** Rita Fitzpatrick, Linda Siebe  
**Greeter:** Patricia Dix  
**Program:** Installation of 2016 Officers and Directors

### Holiday Celebration

The December AARP Chapter meeting at the Black Forest Lutheran Church observed the Holidays with the usual meeting format embellished with a sing-along program led by Kay Zvonkovich and the Spirit of Grace Coral Group from the Our Lady of the Pines Roman Catholic Church in Black Forest. A drawing for many gaily-wrapped gifts reflecting the season followed the program.

The lunch featured extensive catered entrees, from the Golden Corral, supplemented by many delicious side dishes and desserts furnished by the members.

The need of others was not forgotten. Chapter members turned in seventeen large filled holiday stockings that the Salvation Army will present to children who may not receive any other item during the Christmas Holidays. Members were also thanked for participating in the collecting of many items needed for a Native American Christmas relief project for seniors sponsored by the Black Forest Lutheran Church. In addition, chapter members Ray and Lin Rozak and Diane Apodaca were recognized for their exceptional service and support to the chapter over the past two years.

The annual election of Chapter Officers was conducted during the short business meeting that followed. The elected officers will be installed at the January 13th chapter meeting that starts at 11:50 AM.



Spirit of Grace Choral Group members L-R Kay Mathews, Kay Zvonkovich, Carol Bishop & Mike Watry. Accompanied by Roxanne Siudzinski.



Some of the 39 Chapter members partaking of the luncheon.



Santa's Helpers Ray & Lin Rozak show some of the many beautifully wrapped presents donated by Chapter members for the drawing. The table decorations, not shown, were also given away during the meeting.



L-R Electa Beckner, Edna Eaton, Ray Rozak & Diane Apodaca display the 17 holiday stockings that were provided by Chapter members for the Salvation Army to distribute to needy children.

**FINANCE:** Correction to December 2015 report:  
(bolded items)

	Monthly	Year to Date
Nov. 1, 2015 Checking Account Balance:	\$3,105.82	
<b>Income</b>		
Dues (for 2016)	<b>\$60.00</b>	<b>\$670.00</b>
Gifts or Donations (Chapter Cup Award)	\$250.00	\$740.00
Social Events: 50/50 Drawing	\$24.00	\$198.50
Advertising Income		<u>\$135.00</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$334.00</b>	<b>\$1,743.50</b>

### Black Forest AARP Chapter 1100 Financial Report for 2016

	Monthly	Year to Date
Dec. 1, 2015 Checking Account Balance:	\$3,069.20	
<b>Income</b>		
2016 Dues	\$310.00	\$970.00
Gifts or Donations (Chapter Cup Award)		\$740.00
Social Events: 50/50 Drawing	\$30.00	\$228.50
Advertising Income	\$25.00	<u>\$160.00</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$365.00</b>	<b>\$2,098.50</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
Meeting Expense		\$245.00
Gifts or Donations		\$145.00
Social Events:		
Supplies		\$44.01
Chapter Dinner (Christmas)	\$295.09	\$295.09
Administrative Cost	\$5.75	\$268.70
Newsletter Cost		\$183.17
Other (Weebly website)		<u>\$33.73</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$300.84</b>	<b>\$1,214.70</b>
12/1 Checking Account Balance	\$3,133.36	
CD Account Balance on 11/2015		\$1,039.95

### CHAPTER COMMITTEES

**COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE NEWS FROM GWEN** - This month I want to let members know that we save Labels for Education for **First Step Pre-School**. Most come from Campbell's products but are also on Pepperidge Farm Goldfish crackers & V-8 Splash beverages. When we save the label it needs to have the UPC code #. There is usually a line where they want us to cut. I have a sheet to help with what is available to save. If you would like one just let me know.

They can also use Styrofoam egg cartons, plastic containers from baby food, individual cups from Crystal light mixes, containers for single servings of salad dressing, TV dinner trays, craft items, buttons, dress up clothes, hats, purses, wallets, jewelry, & small items the children can take apart to see how they work.

If you have questions ask Gwen. Anyone who would like to join the Community Service Committee is welcome.

**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 Lavonne Hidy & Pat Guild for their work on the monthly telephone member notifications & to Don Von Gunden for notifying members via e-mail.

**Public Relations:** PSAs were sent to 5 local newspapers, the Gazette blog & posted to our website regarding the December Holiday meeting and was involved in other Chapter business.

**Sunshine:** Get Well cards to: Waldo Pendleton, Sue Fletcher, Linda Siebe, Don Von Gunden, Joanne Pendleton, Bill Sanderman & Lexie Manfrin. 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.

## Secretary's Report

The December 9th meeting was called to order by President Karlstrum at 11:50 AM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance & the Invocation. Birthdays: Alberta Davis, Lavonne Hidy, Lexie Manfrin, Royce Brown & Ray Rozak. Guest: Jeannie Blucher.

You can still renew your AARP Chapter dues: that's \$10/person and Shirley will be glad to take your money.

We all need to thank Helen for showing up at the meeting & doing what she does best, helping out, even though Don was in the hospital. This month there were a few other people missing with ailments, Sue Fletcher with a broken leg, Linda Siebe had the flu, a cold & bronchitis and Waldo Pendleson had cataract surgery. All of you are in our prayers & best wishes for a quick recovery.

We had a Christmas Feast! Turkey, ham, mashed potatoes & gravy from Golden Corral. Our members brought side dishes of vegetables, all types of salads & cranberry sauces. So many desserts I think I waddled out of there. A really big THANK YOU to everyone who brought the delicious food (of course there were no calories in them).

I have a question for all the bakers or just pie eaters: I have looked around & cannot find mincemeat pies. Maybe it's an eastern thing, but I miss them. If anyone has a recipe, or knows where I can buy one, please let me know. When I have an oven I'll have to try & make one. Thanks

Kay arranged for the choir from Our Lady of the Pines Church to entertain us. We all listen to Christmas music on the radio & it seems they have a loop that repeats all day. Are you as sick of "Santa Baby" as I am? The choir sang songs from our childhood. It brought back good memories & for me, smiles. Thanks for the songs.

We have had a final vote on officers & board members & they will be installed into office in January.

We continue the explanation of duties of Chapter Committees each month since so many of us don't know what they do. *(For more details look at your Annual Handout – 12 pages, blue cover. Helen)*

- The Nominating Committee consists of 3 members who serve for 1 year following election. They have a list of Board positions that need to be filled in the next year & make suggestions of people to fill them. These members work from Sept. to Dec.
- The Finance Committee serves in Dec. only. It has 3 members, chaired by the Treasurer. They set the budget for the next year.
- The Audit Committee, also 3 members, are appointed in December & work in January only to audit the books for the previous year. The first meeting of the new year, an hour before the start of the meeting, is the only time they meet.

Gwen asks that we continue to collect stamps & box tops for the school.. You can check with her about any other items.

Lavonne thanks everyone for contributing to the various church drives. They make a difference to so many organizations.

Edna collected 17 Christmas stockings for the Salvation Army this year. We are good! Let's try for more this coming year.

Diane is giving up her position of table decorating—after 2 years she needs a break. It isn't easy to come up with ideas as she has tried to do different themes for each month. Whatever she has made, let's admit it, has been beautiful. She has been told that she could get reimbursed for the materials used. Her reply was no, it's more money in the chapters bank account that can be used for more important things. Thank you for your decorations & for being so unselfish.

Ray & I are going to travel this year so we can replace photos of the many places we've been. When we're here we'll do our regular duties, & will get someone to replace us when we're gone. The most important is the shredding: sign making, putting up posters, going to stores & asking for donations, & coordinating the trucks & volunteers. He'll help if we're here. Also Chuck & Stanley have a lot of experience in this area, - they'll be a huge help.

Last month picking the door prizes changed, all the prizes were wrapped & you got to pick what you wanted but, you could not open them right away. When all the prizes were taken we opened our surprises. We hope everyone had fun.

Respectfully submitted, Lin Rozak

**Chapter dues, \$10.00 per person, are due now and if not paid memberships become delinquent at the end of February.**

### **NEW LOCATION FOR MARCH MEETING:**

**The March 9th Chapter meeting will be at the Old Country Buffet - 801 N. Academy across from the Citadel.**

**COLORADO CHAIN UP TIPS**

**For Smaller Commercial and Passenger Vehicles**

A chain law restriction for vehicles weighing less than 26,001 lbs. including passenger vehicles, crossovers, SUVs, and small trucks can be put into effect in Colorado at any time when weathers conditions are severe, primarily on roadways with significant ascending and descending grades. This restriction is code 15.

When Code 15 of the chain law is in effect, all vehicles must have one of the following in order to proceed: (1) Snow tires with a minimum of 1/8" of tread; or All weather tires with mud and snow (M/S) mark with a minimum of 1/8" of tread; or Four-wheel drive with 1/8" of tread; or Traction devices (chains, auto-sock (see below), etc) for two drive tires.

When the chain law is in effect, drivers will be notified by electronic message signs; 511 traveler information; cotrip.org; and media.

To test to see if your tread is sufficient, insert a quarter upside down into your tire tread (with George Washington's head first). If the top of his head is covered by tread, you're good to go. If the top of his head is visible at any point around the tire (test multiple points), you can't drive when Code 15 of the chain law is in effect. You also likely need new tires.

During severe winter storms, CDOT will implement a Passenger Vehicle Chain Law (Code 16). Under this condition, every vehicle on the roadway is required to have chains or an alternative traction device (like Autosock)

Motorists driving with inadequate equipment during a Traction Law or Passenger Vehicle Chain Law could be fined more than \$130.

If a motorist blocks the roadway because they have inadequate equipment during a Traction Law or Passenger Vehicle Chain Law, they could be fined more than \$650. From a CDOT Fact Sheet supplied by Joe O'Donnell

**WHAT IS AN AUTOSOCK?** The preceding article mentions something called AutoSock. AutoSock is an easy to use textile cover designed to help vehicles get traction on snow and ice. AutoSock is more effective than winter tires and is also more effective than snow chains in certain situations. They have been tested and formally approved by several leading car manufacturers. They can be mounted on summer tires and winter tires (with or without studs). They will improve traction on snowy or icy surfaces. It is recommended that you take them off when you get back to road conditions where no snow or ice is present, e.g. dry asphalt. Asphalt & concrete driving is not recommended as it increases fabric wear considerably.

AutoSock does not have the loud rattling and the bumpy ride which you associate with snow chains. Because there is no danger of damage to the vehicle structure they are approved for speeds up to 30mph, 50km/h; nevertheless your speed should of course be appropriate to the weather and road conditions. From autosock.com

**BE SUSPICIOUS OF THINGS!** WARNING FROM POLICE: "BEWARE OF PAPER ON THE BACK WINDOW OF YOUR VEHICLE" **HOWEVER** The above article has been around in various forms for at least ten years. This is not to say that it cannot happen, but according to various police agencies it is not a wide-spread activity.

Having said that, however, it does bring up a very good point. Always be aware of what is going on around your car, inside or outside. There have been instances of people waiting close to a parked vehicle for an occupant to enter or exit, and then trying to assault them or snatch something from them or from within the car. When you activate the remote OPEN on your key fob, what happens? Generally the driver's door unlocks (sometimes all of the doors) and the interior lights come on (sometimes the head and taillights as well). This is a glaring invitation to someone that you are approaching the car and have the keys in your hand. Also, when you pull into the space and put your car into PARK , the doors unlock which makes the occupants accessible.

The basic point is - be aware and observe what is happening as you leave or approach the vehicle. Sometimes bad things are just waiting for an opportunity.

*Thank you to Chapter Member Bill Sanderman, CO State Coordinator for the AARP Driver Safety Program, for sharing this information.*

- **CHAPTER WEBSITE**      <http://aarpchapter1100blackforest.weebly.com>      ~404 hits from 12/12/2015 to 1/11/2016

We hope our members will find it useful and it will also serve as a membership recruiting activity. Please pass on to Don and Stan your ideas and recommendations on how we can improve this community outreach vehicle.

- The **Senior Social** will be held on Wednesday, January 27, 2016

- **2016 mini schedule—fill the Annual Handouts are updated and distributed:**

February 10      Program: 9:30—11:30 Stroke & Heart Attack Awareness Training. FREE. Public Invited  
 Chapter Meeting: 12:00 Program: Black Forest Fire & Rescue "Senior Safety"  
 Hostess & Host: Lin & Ray Rozak. Greeter : Helen & Don Von Gunden

Here is the schedule for AARP Tax-Aide sites. They will start 2/1/16 and end on 4/15/16.

**AARP FOUNDATION  
TAX-AIDE**

**02/01/2016 - 04/15/2016**

We're the nation's largest volunteer-run tax preparation & assistance service. We work with low to moderate-income taxpayers, especially those 50 & older, to help them get all the deductions & credits they deserve. Our help is FREE & individualized with no strings attached. Please visit one of our sites.

SITE NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	Schedule	Notes
COSPGS SENIOR CENTER	1514 N HANCOCK AVE	COL SPRINGS	12:00 - 05:00PM	-	12:00 - 05:00PM	-	-	-	Appts.	Closed Holiday 2/15/2016 <b>719-387-6000</b>
COSPGS WESTSIDE COMM CIR	1616 W BIJOU ST	COL SPRINGS	10:00AM - 01:00PM	-	-	10:00AM - 01:00PM	-	-	Walk-ins	Closed Holiday 2/15/2015
COSPGS SUNNYSIDE CHURCH	2025 N MURRAY BLVD	COL SPRINGS	09:00AM - 03:00PM	09:00AM - 03:00PM	-	-	-	-	Walk-ins	
COSPGS HOLY APOSTLES CHURCH	4925 N CAREFREE CIR	COL SPRINGS	-	-	-	-	10:00AM - 04:00PM	-	Walk-ins & Appts.	Appts for return clients <b>719-761-4029</b>
NORTH COSPGS LIBRARY 21C	1175 CHAPEL HILLS DR	COL SPRINGS	9:00AM - 5:00PM	-	-	9:00AM - 5:00PM	-	-	Walk-ins & Appts.	But closed 2/4, 2/15, 3/24 & 4/7 <b>719-235-6757</b>
NORTH COSPGS LIBRARY 21C	1175 CHAPEL HILLS DR	COL SPRINGS	-	9:00AM - 5:00PM	9:00AM - 5:00PM	-	-	-	Walk-ins & Appts.	Open 2/2, 3/23 and 4/5 only <b>719-235-6757</b>
FOUNTAIN VALLEY COMM CIR	5725 SOUTHMOOR DR	FOUNTAIN	-	08:30AM - 03:30PM	-	-	-	-	Appts.	<b>719-520-6470</b>
FALCON HIGH PRAIRIE LIBRARY	7035 OLD MERIDIAN RD	PEYTON	-	12:00PM - 05:00PM	-	-	-	-	Appts. Preferred	Open 2/9, 3/1, 3/22, 4/12 only <b>719-235-6757</b>
CALHAN HOUSING AUTHORITY	406 CHEYENNE ST	CALHAN	-	-	09:00AM - 05:00PM	-	-	-	Appts. Preferred	2/17, 2/24, 3/16, 3/30, 4/6 only <b>719-347-7638</b>
WOODLAND PARK LUTHERAN	1310 EVERGREEN HTS DR	WOODLAND PARK	-	-	12:30PM - 3:30PM	-	-	-	Appts.	<b>719-351-6600</b>

**What to Bring?** ■ Social Security cards or other official documentation for yourself and all dependents ■ CO Driver's License or ID Card ■ Copy of last year's income tax return ■ W-2 forms for each employer ■ Unemployment Compensation statements ■ SSA-1099 form if you were paid Social Security benefits ■ All 1099 Forms (1099-INT, 1099-DIV, 1099-MISC, etc.) showing interest and/or dividends, as well as documentation showing the original purchase price or basis of any assets sold ■ 1099 forms, if you received a pension or annuity ■ All forms indicating federal income tax paid ■ Childcare provider information (name, address, employer ID or Social Security number) ■ Receipts or canceled checks, totalled by category, if itemizing deductions ■ Forms 1065, Health Care Coverage, if any received ■ Checkbook, if you desire to have Direct Deposit.

### Watch Out for Winter Weather Scams!

While many of us hibernate away during the cold winter months, scam artists remain on the prowl. It is important to remain vigilant of potential scams that might occur as a result of cold weather!

Watch out for these red flags when considering home improvements, whether having your furnace inspected, chimney swept, leaky roof repaired, heating ducts cleaned or snow removed from your driveway:

- Beware of any handyman who stops by unannounced because he was "in the neighborhood." These scammers often make a quick or faulty repair and then disappear with your money.
- Never pay up front. You're making it easier than ever for a fraudster to take your money and run. Some legitimate contractors may require a small deposit to begin the work, but contractors have credit lines for big-ticket items and don't need your cash up front to purchase materials.
- Beware of "limited-time offers" that force you into acting quickly. Research the business through the Better Business Bureau or by checking other independent references before hiring.
- Be suspicious if you are informed that you need a new furnace or roof after a brief inspection. It's a good idea to get a second opinion from another company before purchasing a big-ticket item.
- Regardless of what you purchase in your home, if you want to cancel it, act quickly. The Federal Trade Commission dictates a three-day cancellation allowance for a refund on purchases over \$25, with some exceptions.

Call an AARP Foundation ElderWatch volunteer specialist if you need to report a scam. 1-800-222-444, option 2.

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

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**AARP Driver Safety Class—Thursday, March 17th** - Starts at 12:45 PM at the Black Forest Lutheran Church. Lasts for 4 hours.

Call 597-5683 for class information and to register **for the Black Forest class only.**

The classroom course costs \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. Payment accepted: either cash or check. They will not accept a credit card. (The cost for the online course is \$19.95 for AARP members and \$24.95 for non-members.)

### REMINDER—CHAPTER MEETING CANCELLATION POLICY.

**If School District 20 cancels classes, or is on late reporting, Chapter meetings will not take place.**