



BLACK FOREST CHAPTER OF AARP #1100

"To serve, not to be served"

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

September 14, 2016

Host: Waldo Pendleton
Greeter: Shirley Karlstrum
Program: Annual Awards Luncheon

HAPPY 44TH ANNIVERSARY TO AARP CHAPTER 1100!!!!

Rita Fitzpatrick Honored at the July meeting of the Black Forest AARP Chapter. Rita received the National AARP Chapter & REA Unit Community Service Award. Presenting the award for AARP & the Black Forest Chapter was Chapter President Charles Karlstrum & Awards Committee Chairperson Ted Lunacek.

The letter accompanying the award from AARP Headquarters in Washington DC, co-signed by Jeannine English, AARP President, & Jo Ann C. Jenkins, AARP Chief Executive Officer, read in part: "AARP is delighted to recognize you with this award & commemorative pin for all the good you have done in your community over the past year. Your efforts have enriched the lives of friends & neighbors & made your community a better place to live."

Rita joined our Chapter in 2014 & since then she has been very active in chapter activities. As Chapter Chairperson for the Legislative Committee she has kept the membership apprised of the items before the CO State legislature by traveling repeatedly to Denver to attend the CO Legislature sessions. Closer to home, her accomplishments include being on the Chapter Board of Directors. In addition she was active in the 2015 annual shredding project, worked with the membership to help set up the annual 500 seat Senior Resource Council Holiday Dinner Dance, as well as the chapter annual Day of Service food drive. As an active chapter member she also helped furnish table decorations for the monthly potluck luncheons & continues to volunteer to work many chapter activities, information booths & community service projects.



Chapter President Charles Karlstrum (L) & Chapter Awards Chairperson Ted Lunacek (R) present the National AARP Chapter & REA Unit Community Service Award to Rita Fitzpatrick. The award consisted of a framed certificate, a distinctive lapel pin & a personalized letter from the AARP National President & the AARP National Chief Executive Officer.

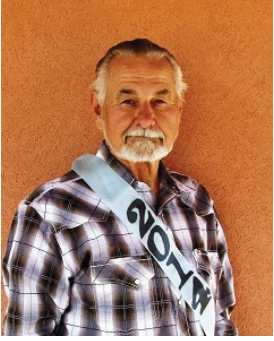
UPCOMING EVENTS

- AARP will again be a sponsor at the **SRC Holiday Dinner Dance on November 12th** from 5-8 PM at the City Auditorium. We will be asking the Chapter for volunteers to help set up and also fill a table at the dinner. More details to follow.
- **October 12th Chapter meeting at the Old Country Buffett**, 801 N. Academy across from the Citadel. Starts at 11:30.
- **AARP Driver Safety Class—Monday, October 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.)

(Editor: Check the course cost when you call to register. The above costs applied in March of 2016.)

Black Forest Festival Celebration, August 13, 2016



Ray Rozak, a local AARP Chapter 1100 member, presided as the Master of Ceremonies at the annual Keeper of the Keys ceremony & dinner on 7 August at the Black Forest Community Club in Black Forest. Over 60 Black Forest & area residents attended the dinner, ceremony, & evening of festivities. As Master of Ceremonies Ray introduced then administered the Oath of Office to the 2016 winner, Leif Garrison. The award of the Black Forest Keeper of the Keys is the annual kickoff for the August 13th Black Forest Festival. Ray, & his wife, Linda, are the 2014 recipients of the Keeper of the Keys award.

The Black Forest AARP Chapter 1100 celebrated the Black Forest Festival by selling homemade foods, crafts, & home grown potted plants from their AARP sponsored booth. The resulting \$360.20 raised was all donated to the Black Forest Cares Food Pantry. Twelve chapter volunteers contributed to making & providing the items & they also staffed the booth on the Festival concourse.



Several Black Forest AARP Chapter members join the large crowd for a hardy breakfast to start the day.



Don Dinwoodie handing out red AARP bags. So many were seen they were the "best bag game in town".



Rita checking out the AARP literature available at the Chapter booth.



Diane Apodaca (L) & Gwen Burk show some of the many craft items the Black Forest Chapter sold.

All proceeds from the sales were donated to the Black Forest Food Pantry.

A Thank You note from the organizers: We had a good turn out of people for the BF Festival. We would like to acknowledge the members who contributed items for sale and/or worked at the chapter booth. Those who deserve a big "thanks" are Linda Siebe, Waldo Pendleton, Chuck & Shirley Karlstrum, Rita Fitzpatrick, Pat Dix, Don Dinwoodie, Gwen Burk, Diane Apodaca, Lavonne Hidy & Electa & Stan Beckner.

	Monthly	2016 Year to Date
Sept. 1, 2016 Checking Account Balance:	\$3,059.67	
Income		
Dues		\$520.00
Gifts or Donations		\$100.00
Social Events: 50/50 Drawing		\$137.50
Advertising Income		<u>\$200.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME		\$957.50
Expense		
Meeting Expense		\$225.00
Gifts or Donations (Hospice)		\$15.00
Social Events:		
Supplies (sugar, cups, plates)		\$51.37
Chapter Holiday Dinners		
Administrative Cost		\$39.11
Newsletter Cost		\$140.83
Other (Weebly, insurance)		<u>\$149.88</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$621.19
5/31 Checking Account Balance	\$3,059.67	
CD Account Balance		\$1,039.95

CHAPTER COMMITTEES

Community Service: The things AARP Chapter 1100 collects for others:

- Black Forest Cares, the Chapter's first community service project. We collect monetary donations and non-perishable food at our monthly meetings plus at the Shredding Event.
- Edith Wolford Elementary: "Boxtops for Education" and Kindergarteners love picture stamps.
- Ronald McDonald House: Aluminum pull tabs. You can use a magnet to tell if they are aluminum.
- First Step Pre-School: Styrofoam egg cartons, plastic containers from baby food, individual cups from Crystal Light mix, containers for single serving of salad dressing & TV dinner trays. Items for dress up: small items to take apart to see how they work, like a clock or a watch.
- Through the Lutheran Church projects: Greeting card fronts for St. Jude's; medication bottles that can be used to hold a spool of thread and a needle; plastic containers for sending food home from the Marion House Soup Kitchen, 16 oz. or larger; shampoo/soaps from hotels; gently used bath towels.

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 & Shirley Karlstrum (who filled in this month) 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 7 local newspapers, the Gazette blog & posted to our website regarding the Black Forest Festival and Rita's award. Thank you Stan for all your work getting information out to the local newspapers.

Sunshine: Over the summer Get Well cards were sent to Don Von Gunden, Bill Sanderman and Alberta Davis. A sympathy card was sent to Linda Siebe. Thanks Electa. (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.)

New Community Service information: In August Electa & Stan attended a meeting at the Black Forest Lutheran Church on the Mosaic charity the Church supports. They learned that Mosaic does not collect used postage stamps any more. So Chapter members - **you can stop bringing stamps to our meetings.** But thanks for all you have contributed over the years.

Secretary's Report

The July 13th meeting was called to order by President Karlstrum who then led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Invocation was given by Howard Pease. Birthdays: in July: Diane Apodaca, Sue Fletcher, Ethel (Pewee) Santti. In August: Gwen Burk, Carol Joworski & Beverly Schaab. Guests: Paula Blair, Tri-Lakes Cares; Joseph Samudio, El Paso AARP and George from Senior Expo Funerals. Host, Hostess & Greeters for this Annual Chapter picnic at Black Forest Park were the Board Members & Officers.

One of the most important messages in this chapter meeting was this - **PLEASE RETURN OUR CALLS!** We say this so many times that I guess it goes in one ear and out the other. It really is important that we know how many members are attending, if it weren't we wouldn't ask or keep repeating ourselves. So please, return our calls.

The picnic was amazing, the weather couldn't have been better - warm with a slight breeze. We had plenty of food & drinks. Thanks to all who brought items for bingo & a huge thanks to Electa for all the plants. Mine are doing great, I've had to replant them in to bigger pots.

The National AARP Chapter & REA Unit Community Service Award was given to Rita Fitzpatrick. We're proud of you. Keep up the good job.

Stan Beckner informed us that the shredding brought in more food & money than we ever have! Wohoo!! He also said the Chapter volunteers are getting fewer each year. What's up with that? We have plenty of members, so why so few volunteers? We had a few younger non-members (thank heavens) who took up the slack & then some. I heard rumblings that some of you weren't happy about the non-members, sorry you felt that way, but without them it would not have run so smoothly.

For the Black Forest Festival it has been decided that we will have a booth & sell crafts & baked goods. Help will be needed at the booth to set-up, man the booth & tear down. For those of us who are making something, Gwen has stickers - price your own items & put your initials on the back. If items don't sell they will be returned to who ever made them. All of the money raised goes to Black Forest Cares.

The Nominating Committee consisting of Beverly Schaab & Patricia Dix, are asking members to step up to be the President & Secretary. The past Presidents will be glad to help the new President any way they can. If you can take notes, you can be Secretary. I know you'll do a better job than I have. Please step up and take over these jobs. I've been asked what if we have no President? Answers simple, we have no Chapter.

As you know by now, there was no meeting in August. I need to apologize to Helen, who does a fantastic job of getting the newsletters out, but even so, I waited until August 23rd to type this up. See, anyone can do better than I have.

(Editor: You always do a great job Lin—no matter when it's mailed.)

Senior Social was the 27th of July, I was not there, to those who were, I hope you had a great time.

The Chapter Cup competition is on again. All the hours that you donate, from working events/expos, etc., should have been counted and turned in. It all adds up, and this would be the 8th time we'll win. Maybe.

At the picnic Chuck had the unpleasant duty to inform us that Royce Brown passed away July 9th. For those of you who didn't know him, he was one of the few good guys. For those who knew him, he will be missed.

We had a few speakers, some were a surprise and not planned, but they had good information for us.

Paula Blair from Tri-Lakes Cares was there. She informed us that they offer all kinds of help for senior citizens in the Black Forest. She can help with Snap, food stamps and they have a food pantry for those in need. Paula is a very warm and caring person, if you need help she's the one to see.

Joseph Samudio is the El Paso representative for AARP Denver. He's trying to help reform Social Security so it'll be around for a long time. He needs volunteers to help reach out to groups and inform them about the reforms the government wants to make. (EDITOR: This is tied into the last article on page 5 - the upcoming Town Hall meetings. One of which will be held at the Senior Center on Hancock.

That's all the news that's fit to print. Hope you enjoyed the month off and did something exciting

Respectfully submitted, Lin Rozak

WILL WE WIN AGAIN?

Our Chapter President, Chuck Karlstrum, has submitted our chapter application again for the AARP Colorado Chapter Cup which **we have won 7 times in a row now**. The chapter also gets \$250 & the cup if we win.

WHAT DO WE HAVE TO DO TO WIN?

We have to compile more points than the other AARP Chapters in Colorado. To get points we have to list what we have done to deserve to win! There are a few general questions & some specific sections that have to be addressed:

SECTION 1: CHAPTER ORGANIZATION & ADMINISTRATION:

Section 1 Questions ask the name of the chapter, key elected officers, the number of boards meetings we held (6), number of chapter meetings we held (11) & if we publish a monthly newsletter (yes). We got 75 points for our answers to this section.

SECTION 2: CHAPTER ACTIVITY MEASURES:

This section asks us to give specific details on the chapter's activities. We responded that we did 30 activities that fell into their category of "Education and Outreach". This was worth 300 points.

Under this section we also had to prove that we publicized our Chapter Meetings by attaching a clipping from a newspaper. We got 10 points here.

Next we had to certify that we included at least 4 programs that focused on State/National AARP programs. We picked up 35 points here.

Advocacy was next. Did your chapter incorporate legislative updates during legislature session? YES, Rita did this for us. (10 points)

Another part of this section was Membership. They wanted us to list the membership events we conducted. (We got 40 more points here).

The next question asked about our Community Service. In this case they wanted to know how many people we had speak to us about community service. We got 20 points here.

Last they wanted us to attach a newspaper clipping advertising a community service project. We did & got another 5 points.

All together we accrued 480 points this past year. Hopefully it will be enough for us to win the cup & the money.

The Chapter thanks all those who actively worked these activities. Hopefully we will get 100% participation in the coming year.

Town Hall Meetings Air Issues

Topics to be covered:

- **Take a Stand**, a national AARP campaign that asks presidential candidates to describe their proposals for Social Security, which - if no action is taken - is projected to be able to pay only about 75% of benefits after 2034.
- **Work and save**, a legislative proposal that would allow CO small employers to offer their employees access to workplace savings without operating a retirement plan.
- **Updates to the 911 system**, including allowing people to use texts to contact emergency operators.
- **State fiscal flexibility**, including backing future initiatives that would moderate CO's Taxpayer's Bill of Rights.

Each meeting, led by Kelli Fritts, Advocacy Director for AARP CO, will feature presentations about Social Security & state fiscal flexibility, a wrap-up of AARP's efforts during the past legislative session & an opportunity for members & the general public to discuss other concerns pertaining to the state's older population, including issues at stake in the November elections.

We are inviting you to join us on tour to discuss AARP legislative priorities. Good conversation & light refreshments guaranteed. **Please R.S.V.P. by calling 1-877-926-8300 or register online**. Seating is limited. All forums are free & open to the public:

In Colorado Springs:

Tuesday, September 20, 2016 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. AT Silver Key Senior Services, 1655 S. Murray Blvd., 80904

Here is a story on the tour: http://states.aarp.org/co_town-hall-meetings-air-issues/

From Kelli Fritts: To view all the bills we are tracking in the CO Legislature go to: <http://www.coloradocapitolwatch.com/bill-analysis/3030/2016/0/>

Work-At-Home-Scams

Are you interested in finding a way to increase your income? When seeking employment it's important to be aware of work-at-home scams or "easy money" opportunities listed on employment sites or solicited to you. This type of fraud is perpetrated in a variety of ways, from buying & reshipping products to building e-commerce websites that promise you a cut of the action based on the web traffic you generate.

One thing that most work-at-home scams have in common is that they offer big returns for little effort. If it seems too good to be true, it probably is. Here are some red flags:

- **Up-front fees:** Many work-at-home scams pose as business opportunities that require you to pay money in advance for customer lists, startup costs, marketing materials or supplies.
- **Seeking personal information:** Be wary of work-at-home opportunities that ask for your Social Security number or banking information. This may be a front for identity theft.
- **Recruiting others:** Work-at-home scams often operate as pyramid schemes, requiring you to recruit others. Be skeptical if you are asked to involve others in the work.

Although work-at-home offers may be tempting, make sure to do your homework through an organization like the Better Business Bureau, a local workforce center or your state's department of labor & employment prior to participating in any work-at-home opportunities.

If you have any questions about a job opportunity that seems too good to be true or a work-at-home scheme that reports to result in "easy money," contact an AARP Foundation ElderWatch volunteer specialist at 800-222-4444, option 2, to talk you through the situation.

Call 1-800-222-4444, telephone option 2. Call us Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-4 p.m. MT

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- **The Senior Social will be held on Wed., Sept. 28th**
- **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.
- **CHAPTER WEBSITE** <http://aarpchapter1100blackforest.weebly.com> **~310 hits from 8/14 to 9/12/2016**
We hope our members will find it useful & it will also serve as a membership recruiting activity. Please pass on to Don & Stan your ideas & recommendations on how we can improve this community outreach vehicle.