

BLACK FOREST CHAPTER OF AARP #1100
“TO SERVE, NOT TO BE SERVED
February 2012

March Meeting — Host and Hostess, meeting at Golden Corral, 5410 East Woodman, (Woodman & Powers) meet at 11:30 AM to eat at 12:00 noon. **Greeters**

We still have openings for Host and Hostess for May and September meetings and Greeters for December and a second person for March, April, May and September.

Remember at our October meeting we voted to change our dues to \$10.00 per year. We will not ask for a donation as in the past, just dues, payable as of January for 2012. If you can not make a meeting you can mail them to Lavonne Hidy, 13165 Black Forest Road, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80908.

Kay and Edna are working to provide a trip to **Washington DC., our Nations' Capitol in April**. These trips do help our finances as we receive a donation after the trip from the trip. The trip is open to members, friends and neighbors, The Polka Club also participates in this adventure. If you like to travel or know someone that does please get in touch with Kay or Edna. Several people really want to make this trip but it requires 40 to make it a go. I hear they have lots of fun on the trip. They play games, enjoy snacks and watch movies as they travel.

The Senior Social for January was canceled due to Kathleen Carroll's service at the Lutheran Church. The next **Senior Social will be February 22** starting at 1PM in the Fellowship Hall of the Black Forest Lutheran Church. We have a group that enjoys Mexican Train Dominoes. If you have a favorite game you may bring it and invite others to join us. We have some that enjoy handwork and you are welcome to bring it or just sit and visit with us. Anyone wanting to learn about crochet we can give a helping hand to get started. For more information or volunteer to help please call Lavonne Hidy at 495-2408.

Notes from the Sunshine Committee: Cards sent to Irl Holzrichter, Terry O'Connell, Rosemary Walker, Janet Hoover, hope everyone is much improved. Sympathy cards sent to David Carroll, and David and Mary Ann Campbell. If you know someone who needs a card please call Lexie at 495-2408.

We received a thank you letter from TESSA for all the items we donated to their Christmas gifts. She writes over 70 families, totaling more than 300 mothers and children received Christmas gifts. The letter is on the information table for all to read.

Josie Rivera needs a ride to participate in our chapter meetings. If you are willing to help she lives in area code 90910. Ask Gwen or Chuck for her phone number.

Check the Share Table: If you have something to find a new home for put it on the share table. Check at the end of the meeting to see if someone could use it. Several items have found new homes or someone knew a need for them. We need someone to set up and close the share table at the end of our meeting.

From ElderWatch – Merchandise for Just One Penny?

Who doesn't love to get a good deal? Some find online penny auctions to be a fun way to try to get big ticket items cheaply.

How does a penny auction work?

In a penny auction, items are posted by the site owner and you pay to bid for them. Unlike a traditional auction, where only the winning bidder pays anything, penny auctions require you to pay before-and as you play, win or lose. Look out for Bogus Bidders: Bots and Shills

Some unscrupulous auction sites use bid bots, which are computer programs that automatically bid on behalf of the website. You may be seconds away from winning an auction when another user places a bid. That keeps the clock ticking, and forces you into a bidding war to stay in first place.

Winning the auction doesn't mean you've won the auction item: It means you've won the right to buy the item at the final price.

The pitfalls of penny auctions are that they may offer deals, but they also can present problems: For example: Time lags in delivery and discrepancy in the quality of the item. (continued next page)

Misleading terms; Terms like “bonus bids” might suggest that bids are free, in a penny auction, you pay for every bid.

Hidden costs, Read each penny auction site’s Terms of Use’ before you sign in or register.

Insecure payment options, Consider using a credit card. That way if something goes awry, like you don’t get your merchandise or it’s not what you expected, you can dispute the charge with your credit card issuer.

Reputation rules, Avoid doing business with sellers you can’t identify. Look for a phone number and call it to confirm that you can contact the seller in case you have questions.

Report Problems with Online Auctions

If you have problems during an online auction transaction, try to work them out directly with the website operator. If that doesn’t work, file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission.

Prevent Financial Elder Abuse! 1-800-222-4444 or www.aarpelderwatch.org

	Items to help us share with others		
	January 2012	Year 2012	Year total– 2011
Campbell’s Labels	15	15	263
* special offers for additional point are given to pre-school but we only count labels.			
Stamps	526	526	7242
Pop Tops		6 oz	6 oz. 8lbs. 11 oz.
Boxtops for Education	21	21	598—\$59.80
Black Forest Cares	1 lb.	1 lb.	31 lbs. 4 oz.
Donation Jar	\$ 53.00	\$53.00	\$437.40
Shred It Event —2011		593 lbs.	\$238.00
Day of Service 2011	166.2 lbs food	\$269.94	

First Step Pre-School needs individual cups from crystal light mixer, lids from frozen juice cans and the small containers that salad dressing and other single serving items come in with an individual meal from carry out. Please save for them and bring to a meeting. They do not need egg cartons or fronts of cards now but Wolford art teacher can use them along with 4 dozen toilet paper tubes. Bring to meeting and Gwen will get them to her.

The art teacher at Wolford will take our card fronts and egg cartons, both kinds. She is in need of 4 dozen toilet paper tubes. If you have some to donate bring them to our next event, Senior social or meeting at Golden Corral

Black Forest Chapter #1100 of AARP

Chapter Meeting, January 11, 2012

Black Forest Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, CO

The Regular Monthly meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM by President Charles Karlstrum at the Black Forest Lutheran Church. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation, given by Jan Duncan of Black Forest Lutheran Church.

There were 36 present, 31 members and 5 guests: Guests were Michelle Mercer, Nancy and Ed Storey, Les Borst and Deon, (Carolyn Jaworski grandson)

Members celebrating January birthdays; Marty Braun, Don Cote, Marsh Looper, Marika Martynuk, Amy Neely, Howard Pease and Carol Stewart.

Members celebrating January Wedding Anniversaries: Marty and Jean Brauns.

Guests and those present celebrating birthdays and anniversaries led the group to luncheon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a Board Meeting at 11:30AM, 3 February 2012 at the IHOP Restaurant, Stetson Hills and Powers Blvd.

A handout showing the location and times for the AARP Tax-Aide-program for El Paso and Teller Counties was distributed. For information contact Don Von Gunden.

2. Program: Both the speaker from the Better Business Bureau and Roberta Rey, AARP representative from the Denver office were unable to attend because of weather. Installation of officers for 2012 will be rescheduled for February.

3. State Award: Our Chapter won \$200 for our two Chapter Challenges and suggestions for charities to receive this as a gift were solicited. After discussion, Ray Rozak made a motion that \$100 be given to the Black Forest Cares and \$100 to the Marion House Soup Kitchen. The motion was seconded and the vote was in favor.

4. Treasurer's Report: Lavonne Hidy reported that the Audit Committee has performed the annual audit and found no discrepancies. The budget for this year has been presented. It is hoped that our Chapter continue to support the trip to Washington, D.C. in April as we receive a donation if we do. Our increase in dues to \$10.00 a year went into effect.
(Continued next page)

5. Committee Reports: Community Service: Gwen Burk – The Heart Attack and Stroke class, which is open to the community, will be February 8th from 9:00 to 11:00 AM prior to our luncheon meeting here at the Church. Mr. Walt Sealy from the Black Forest Fire Department will speak at our Luncheon Meeting, of ways to make our home safe with fire prevention outside the house. A full page format for The Newsletter will be tried for February. Also the Annual Handout listing officers, meeting dates, etc. will be ready for the February meeting. Check the Share Table each meeting. Read a poem about being 80. Copies of it on information table if anyone wanted one.

Health and Welfare: Waldo Pendleton reminded everyone to get their flu shots.

Legislation: Howard Pease reminded everyone to register to vote.

Public Relations: Stan Beckner spoke of his work with the local media on behalf of our chapter.

Sunshine: Lexie Manfrin needs your help sending cards to members. Let her know of anyone who is sick, had surgery or should be remembered.

6. 50/50 Drawing: The total tickets sale was \$35.00. The prize of \$17.50 was won by Joanne Pendleton.

7. Thanks to the Following:

Host and Hostess: Howard Pease, Janet Hoover, Waldo and Joanne Pendleton.

Greeter: Dianne Apodaca

E-Mail Don Von Gunden

Telephone Callers Janet Hoover and Rosemary Walker

8. The Minutes and Treasurer's Reports for December were printed in the Chapter Newsletter

9. The meeting adjourned at 1:20PM

Respectfully Submitted: Catherine Arnold, Secretary, 11 January 2012

Black Forest Chapter of AARP #1100—TREASURERS REPORT

Income —checking account January 1, 2012	\$3,077.76	Year to date
Dues	\$180.00	\$180.00
Donations		
Social — 50/50	17.50	17.50
Advertising Income		
Trip		
Other — AARP Awards		
Total Income	\$ 197.50	\$ 197.50
Expense		
Administrative	20.00	20.00
Donations (Gifts)		
Memorials		
Meeting Expense	225.00	225.00
Newsletter		
Publicity		
Social Events		
Supplies (utensils, paper plates-cups)	30.02	30.02
Other (Christmas program)		
Total Expense	275.02	\$ 275.02
Balance — January 31, 2012	\$3,000.24	

3 month CD—January 2008 beginning amount-\$1000.00

Date January 31, 2012 Interest \$.54 Balance: \$1,035.47

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In the AARP December bulletin there is a databank stating what dollar amount each state estimated assigned to volunteer hours. South Dakota was the lowest of the states with \$15.18 and Connecticut the highest with \$26.98. Washington D. C. was even higher with \$32.79 and Puerto Rico the lowest listed with \$11.31.

In looking at the estimates it is great to feel our time donated is very valuable to others. Now the other side of me wonders are people doing what we do to volunteer really getting those kind of wages? If you would like to see the whole list ask Gwen.