



COASTAL NEWS

AARP Chapters are separately incorporated affiliates of AARP

www.southcoastalaarp.org

South Coastal Delaware Chapter #5226 of AARP, Inc.
P.O. Box 225, Ocean View, DE 19970

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! Finally, a respite from feasting, family or friends' gatherings, frantic moments is here. We have a new year before us that seems to have a plethora of opportunities for us to begin again. All we have to do is resolve to open ourselves to the possibilities and make a few changes. Simple, isn't it? Maybe.

Traditionally, we choose and compile a list of resolutions. Sadly, I rarely get past the list-writing before my resolve disappears:

1. Eat healthier, which means eat less, follow whatever diet is trending and stop drinking 6 diet cokes a day to keep hydrated. This resolution lasts until green peas or green anything shows up on my plate. Or when I see the golden arches, I know I must get another diet coke on my way to a meeting. Okay, let me try a simpler change.

2. Be healthier by moving or exercise more. By more, I mean standing up and moving to another chair to read. NO! I can do better. I can join a gym, take gentle yoga, walk a mile every day, and buy new exercise clothes. That is appealing if I can find a parking space close to the store. But the weather is bad, and I might get sick while being out in the cold. Another resolution goes down in flames.

3. Improve my mind by exploring intellectual pursuits. Well, I feel good by walking into Barnes & Noble to find an appropriate book. Wait, there is a new vampire romance just out. I will get that and finish it quickly, then read about the plight of the aborigines. Oh dear, there goes another resolution.

Now this message was going through my mind as I stood in a long line at the grocery store with my cart overflowing without one green anything in it. I glanced behind me at the weary face of the customer behind me. Without hesitation, I told her to go before me. The surprise on her face and smile when she realized that I was serious did something that all these lofty resolutions failed to do. I felt happy. I realized that what we need is more kindness in the world. So, my resolution for 2026 is to be kinder. We all could start small and eventually the kindness resolution can positively affect many lives. Oh! My only other resolution is to work hard for our organization since you are giving me the opportunity to serve you.

Happy New Year,
caryn Cleveland-Short

THIS MONTH'S LUNCHEON PROGRAM

Our January 13th luncheon and Chapter meeting at Cripple Creek will feature Jean Siers, the Regional Director of Society of St. Andrew's (SoSA) Delmarva office, based in Salisbury, MD. Jean has worked for SoSA for 13 years, including 10 years in Charlotte, NC, before moving to Maryland to open the Delmarva office. In her 13 year career, she has overseen the distribution of more than 13 million pounds of food through 3,500 gleaning events. Jean has worked with more than 20,000 volunteers, 300 providers, and 800 local hunger agencies. This will be a timely presentation for all of us.

TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT AND SELECT YOUR MEAL, PLEASE SEE PAGE 4.

Wear your name badge to the meeting for a sweet treat!

For the *FASTEST* and *BEST* way to ensure you see the most recent newsletter, visit the Chapter Website on the 4th Tuesday of each month at: www.southcoastalaarp.org/newsletters. While you're there, check out the rest of the site for information on Chapter Activities, Travel, and more.

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to 2026!

As of December 8th, our total membership is 467. A warm welcome to the 12 new members who have joined us: Jennifer Bush, Brenda Dickerson, John Grannis, Jackie Limroth, Debbe Milstead, Dawn Morsell, Geraldine Outten, Elsa Pairel, Bill Quinlan, Sandi Russell, Argetta Shupe, and Sue Skelly. Stop by the membership table at the next luncheon to pick up your name badge and to say Hello. While there, consider ordering one of the magnetic name badges. Continue to reach out to your friends and neighbors and encourage them to join us. Word of mouth really works!

While the total membership will fall a bit as members may not renew for the coming year, I am glad that we have a steadfast following and am always happy to see many of you at our luncheons. I cannot emphasize enough for members to access the latest newsletter via the website www.southcoastalaarp.org. Remember that *the newsletter is posted on the website on the fourth Tuesday of the month*. Our volunteers work to keep the email distributions up-to-date, though the delivery system may miss one or two due to a random glitch in the program. If you don't receive a newsletter email alert by the afternoon of the fourth Tuesday of the month, you can let either the newsletter editor or me know via email at nancy.archey@gmail.com or kayhouston@mchsi.com.

May the New Year bring you Much Happiness and Good Health.

JOIN A SOUTH COASTAL AARP CLUB!

BINGO is held at [The Salted Rim Bar and Grill](#) at 35553 Atlantic Ave in Millville on the second Monday of the month. Come for dinner around 4:30pm and play Bingo (free, w/prizes) at 6pm on **Monday, January 12th**. Questions? You can call Sheila at 602-688-5300.

BOWLING with Paula Pinkett (302-228-6284), who arranged for \$3.50 per game and \$3.50 for shoes with [Millsboro Bowling Lanes](#). Play time starts at 1pm on the last Friday of each month, with this month being on **January 30th**.

LUNCHES with Maureen Eisenhart will resume in **February**.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The final tally for the Dine and Donate and basket auction held Nov. 12 was \$2,263. This includes a \$500 donation from Cottage Café. Thanks to all who attended and to those who could not attend but made cash donations. Look for details for the next Dine and Donate in next month's newsletter.

Delaware Technical and Community College students who received our fall scholarships are:

- *Sara Mass from Lewes DE*, Health & Sciences student, pursuing a career as a physical therapy assistant,
- *Alecia Mollock of Seaford, DE*, who is pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Development,
- *Shelby King of Lewes, DE*, who is pursuing an associate's degree in Nursing, and
- *Allison Maione of Lincoln, DE*, who is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Nursing.

The total of scholarships that our chapter awarded in 2025 was \$9,000. This included \$3,000 to Indian River High School students for two scholarships and \$6,000 to Del Tech students.

*Ida Crist, Chair
Scholarship Committee*

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Community Service Committee will be collecting donations at the *February* luncheon to help those in need with their electric bills. The Pyle center in Roxanna will give us the information for a family in need. We will pay directly to the electric company. We know how generous you are especially when the electric bills will be higher than usual. Containers will be on the tables. Thanks again for your generosity.

Special thanks for all the wonderful gifts for Meals-on-Wheels. There were many happy recipients on Christmas.

*Kathy Lesperance, Chair
Community Service*

We can help our neighbors in need! Bring non-perishable food items to the luncheon for the Food Pantry at the [Pyle Center](#).



SUNSHINE

If anyone is in need of a card – get well, surgery or sympathy – please call me at (302) 245-0059.

CHAPTER WEBSITE

Please visit our Chapter Website at <http://www.southcoastalaarp.org> for up-to-date information on upcoming activities, contact information for Board and Committee Members, news about next year's Artisan Fair, event photos and the latest travel opportunities.

CHORUS

After a successful holiday concert season in which the *Singers of Note* performed five concerts, the group will take a break for a few weeks.

Rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 10 a.m. at [Ocean View Presbyterian Church](#). The rehearsals, which are two hours long, take place every Wednesday until concerts begin in late May.

The chorus is open to any South Coastal DE AARP member. If you have friends who like to sing, tell them about our choral group. If they are not already a member of national AARP or our local chapter, they can join and sing with us in the spring. For more information, contact Laura Weaver, director, at lweaveraarpchorus@gmail.com or 302-382-4584.

Laura Weaver, Director



Above: The *Singers of Note* perform at the December luncheon

CHAPTER'S END-OF-YEAR DONATIONS

This year, the Chapter's Donations Advisory Committee, under the direction of President Terry Baker, proposed that the Chapter make donations to the following organizations:

- Pyle Service Center Food Pantry – \$1,000
- Roxana Cheer Center – \$300
- South Coastal Village Volunteers – \$500
- Home of the Brave Foundation (for Home of the Brave 2) – \$300
- C.A.S.H. (Canines Assisting Service Heroes) – \$400

At its meeting on November 11, the Board of Directors approved the proposed donations as a way to show the Chapter's appreciation for everything that these organizations do to support our South Coastal Delaware community.

♦♦♦♦



Above: Thank-you letter from Home of the Brave

CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS

President	Caryn Cleveland-Short	302-490-7427
Vice President & Program Chair	Joanne Spink	302-463-0199
Secretary	Paula Pinkett	302-228-6284
Asst. Secretary	Andrea Gowetski	302-541-4751
Treasurer	Sheila Bower	602-688-5300
Asst. Treasurer	Coleen Cardy	724-238-3967
Past President, Advisor	Kathy Johnson	302-829-8956

DIRECTORS

Ida Crist	2025-2027	302-732-6336
Joan DeMarco	2026-2028	410-250-0963
Susan Kerwin	2025-2027	302-236-3481
Kathy Lesperance	2025-2027	302-537-7845
Sandy Raymond	2024-2026	301-651-2284

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Maureen Eisenhart	2025-2026	302-988-1196
Linda Burns Filer	2025-2026	302-354-5656
Terry Griswold	2026-2027	443-752-4513
Sandra McGrath	2026-2027	703-919-7059
Mable Ruddo	2025-2026	302-541-8549

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Community Service	Kathy Lesperance	302-537-7845
Chorus	Laura Weaver	302-382-4564
Legislative/Environmental	Vacant	
Membership	Kay Houston	302-732-6977
Newsletter	Nancy Archey	703-919-8254
Scholarship	Ida Crist	302-732-6336
	Shirley Price	302-236-7046
Sunshine	Joan Wolf	302-541-0513
Tours	Jim Harding	302-245-8511
Web Coordinator	Frances Hart	703-801-7216
Asst. Web Coordinator	Nancy Archey	703-919-8254
50/50	Joan Wolf	302-541-0513
	Cookie Butts	302-541-9264

* LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS *

To reserve a spot for the luncheon on **JANUARY 20th**, send an Email with your meal selection to: [Mary Ann Dougherty at madod@aol.com](mailto:MaryAnnDougherty@madod@aol.com) by NOON, MONDAY, **JANUARY 12th**.

(If you are unable to use email, you may call Mary Ann at 302-541-9412.)

Mary Ann will confirm receipt of all messages.

Cost: \$31.00* Payable by cash or check only.

January's Menu

Grilled Shrimp Caesar Salad

5 Jumbo shrimp over classic Caesar salad with garlic croutons, crisp baby romaine and shaved Parmesan

Chicken Caprese Sandwich

Grilled chicken breast with heirloom tomato, buffalo mozzarella, basil pesto on a toasted ciabatta bun served with fries

Scottish Salmon

Seared 5oz salmon filet with wilted spinach, wild rice galette and lemon butter sauce

Dessert

Toffee Crunch Cups – Toffee mousse with chocolate ganache and a crunch topping

Beverages: Iced Tea, Lemonade and Water
Coffee and Tea Service

Doors open at 11 a.m., and Lunch is at 12 noon.
Chapter news, announcements and program
will follow.

*** Note: The January cost for lunch is \$31.**

We cannot take walk-ins. If you send [Mary Ann](mailto:MaryAnnDougherty@madod@aol.com) an email or leave her a voicemail, you'll receive a confirmation from her for your reservation and meal. If you don't receive a confirmation, you don't have a reservation.

If you cancel after the deadline, **NOON DEC. 8th**, or do not attend for any reason, you will be billed for the full cost of the luncheon unless there's a waiting list.

Board of Directors Meetings

Meetings of the Chapter's Board of Directors are held the second Tuesday of the month, September through June, at 11:00 a.m. at the Ocean View Community Center on West Avenue in Ocean View.

All members are welcome to attend.

CHAPTER TRIPS 2026

April 16, Some Enchanted Evening

Overview:

Some Enchanted Evening is a celebration of songs that have become a part of our lives. We sing them in the shower and we sing them to entertain and amuse. This show places five performers -each of whom could easily be cast in any Rodgers and Hammerstein Show-in a theatrical setting -first “backstage”, where the songs are sung as personal interplay and then “on stage” where the songs are “performed” for the audience. Of course, the songs themselves and the five performers are the most important elements. Each singer must bring his own style and personality to the songs and the situations in which they are set.

Price Includes: Show, dinner, round trip motor coach, tax, tip and gratuities

Price: \$170.00pp

For Reservations contact: Denise McCallion (302)367-4157

May 4-8 Holland Tulip Festival New

Overview:

It's Tulip Time, the Holland, Michigan festival that boasts over 5 million tulips, planted & ready to burst forth in bloom in early spring. The City of Holland manages all the tulip plantings in parks, along city streets and in the downtown area. Our tour will take us to the Nelis Dutch Village ~~NL~~ in Holland, Michigan is a really quaint little village! Walking through the charming streets of this Dutch Village while exploring the windmills, canals, and cozy houses make you feel transported to the Netherlands. We will visit DeKlomp Wooden shoes and Delft Factory: wooden shoes are a very practical footwear for gardening, getting the mail, and general use. See the shoe maker produce wooden shoes from block of poplar wood using authentic Dutch machinery (still used in Europe today). Delftware a Dutch pottery famous around the world; takes almost a full week to produce. We are the only production facility in North America, offering over 400 different hand painted Dutch pottery items. Follow the process of making these fine pottery items; from pouring the liquid clay into molds, to firing the clay at 2,000 degrees. Then talk to the artists as they hand paint Dutch designs and glaze each item for the perfect shine. No stop in Holland is complete without a visit to Windmill Island Gardens. Tour De Zwaan, the only authentic Dutch windmill operating in the United States – still turning and grinding wheat into flour! Other Dutch treasures include a street organ gifted by the City of Amsterdam and a hand-painted antique carousel. Other Dutch features include stately Friesian horses, a water exhibit and Little Netherlands – a maquette of Dutch life in the 1840s when Holland was settled. Many buildings are replicas of those found in the Netherlands including the ones housing a gift shop where you can pick up an authentic Dutch treat! We will finish up our trip with a great variety show in town for a relaxing evening. **WHERE TO BUY BULBS WHILE YOU'RE THERE:** Keep in mind, bulbs are not available in the spring but they can be ordered at the following locations for fall delivery; Nelis' Dutch Village. Veldheer Tulip Garden. Windmill Island Gardens

Price includes: Round Trip Bus transportation from Giant to Holland, Michigan, entrance to all above listed venues, 4 nights lodging, 4 breakfasts, 2 dinners, luggage handling in Michigan, taxes, tip, & meal gratuities.

Price: \$884.00 pp based on double occupancy

\$1,283.00 pp based on single occupancy

For Reservations contact: Maria Harding, Escort (302)381-0980 or Jim Harding, Escort (302)245-8511

June 21-July 4 Greenland & Iceland Celebrity Cruise

Overview:

Embark on a 14-day cruise through the stunning landscape of Greenland and Iceland, starting from Cape Liberty, NJ. Visit the historic ports of Halifax, Nova Scotia, and St. John's Newfoundland, before tendering into the charming town of Qaqortog, Greenland, and cruising the majestic fjords of Prius Christian Sound. Explore Iceland's natural beauty with stops in Akureyri and Isafjordur, then conclude your journey in the vibrant capital, Reykjavik. Along the way, enjoy breathtaking views, rich cultural experiences, and unforgettable encounters with some of the world's most remote and awe-inspiring destinations.

Price includes: Bus transportation from Giant to Cape Liberty Cruise Terminal, 13 Nights in a Concierge

Balcony Cabin, Transfer from ship to airport, Return Air Transportation from Reykjavik to Newark Airport, Transfer from Newark Airport to Giant Parking Lot in Millville, DE, Port Charges, Government fees, Ship Gratuities, Classic Beverage Package with Gratuity, Wifi Package

Price: \$5,849.00 pp based on double occupancy

\$9,529.00 pp based on single occupancy

For Reservations contact: Maria Harding, Escort (302)381-0980 or Jim Harding, Escort (302)245-8511

AUGUST 4-7 New York's Thousand Islands New Overview:

This trip takes us up to the 1,000 Islands. We will visit the Eisenhower Locks to discover the seaway's history on the St. Lawrence Seaway which separates the United States and Canada. You will learn the history through cutting-edge, hands-on interactive viewing decks. We will watch vessels pass through the U.S. Eisenhower Lock up close from two separate outdoor viewing decks. We will travel on to the Clayton Island Boat Tours for a unique cruise of the 1000 Islands along the St. Lawrence Seaway. The natural beauty of the less inhabited islands with tranquil bays, marshes, and scenic shorelines as we discover birds and wildlife that inhabit the region. While we travel the St. Lawrence Seaway we will enjoy lunch on the seaway. Our next day we will visit the Antique Boat Museum, the premier freshwater boating museum in North America featuring over 320 unique boats plus thousands of related artifacts and the 106-foot houseboat, La Duchesse, built in 1903 for George Boldt. Then on to the St. Lawrence Spirits Distillery for a tasting of their high-quality craft spirits which are distilled with 100% Saint Lawrence River Water. This distillery produces vodka, gin, absinthe, moonshine, whiskey and bourbon. While in Clayton we will spend the afternoon visiting the Thousand Island Museum, a quaint museum that features and eclectic displays of community artifacts and photographs. However, our trip wouldn't be complete without a visit to the Thousand Islands Winery for a tasting of their wines. Each night we will return to the Edgewood Resort on the St. Lawrence River where you will taste fabulous dinners by the resort.

Price includes: Round Trip Motor coach transportation, 3 nights hotel accommodations, 3 breakfast, 1 lunch, 3 dinners, entrance to all above venues, baggage handling, taxes, and gratuities.

Price: \$899.00 pp based on double occupancy

\$1,228.00 pp based on single occupancy

For Reservations contact: Maria Harding, Escort (302)381-0980 or Jim Harding, Escort (302)245-8511

October 22-25 Hudson Valley & Sleepy Hollow, New York

Overview:

Sleepy Hollow is a village in New York State's Hudson Valley. It's known as the setting of Washington Irving's "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow". The author is buried in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, KyKuit. We will enjoy going to the Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze display, then on to Sunnyside; the Home of Washington Irving. Spirits of Sleepy Hollow Country, where two master illusionists weave a spellbinding tapestry of intrigue and wonder, inspired by the legends and lore of Sleepy Hollow. Traveling on to Twilight Village for a self-guided visit, here you will discover delightful and mysterious creatures who will tell your fortune, croon creepy tunes, and tell tall-ish tales of legends and lore. You will hear about Jay Gould, the Gilded Age robber baron and railroad magnate. His sharp and often unscrupulous business practices made one of the wealthiest men of the late nineteenth century. The Lyndhurst is a Gothic Revival country house that sits in its own 67-acre park beside the Hudson River in Tarrytown.

A guided and self-guided tour of the U.S. Military Academy Campus, West Point. After we will spend a evening at The Culinary Institute of America for the CIA demonstration, where you'll explore the science of taste. Meet the students, learn about the CIA and enjoy a unique tasting exercise. Dinner will be at the CIA this evening. This trip wouldn't be complete without a two-hour narrated Hudson River Cruise aboard Pride of the Hudson.

Price includes: 3 nights lodging, 3 breakfasts, 1 box lunch, 3 dinners, including the Culinary Institute of America, CIA Experience with Tasting Exercise, Entrance to all above venues, round trip motor coach transportation, luggage handling, taxes & gratuities

Price: \$1,399.00 per person based on double occupancy

\$1,759.00 per person based on single occupancy

For Reservations contact: Maria Harding, Escort (302)381-0980 or Jim Harding, Escort (302)245-8511

Chapter Trips 2027

March 28-April 8, 2027 Caribbean Islands aboard Norwegian Pearl. New Overview:

This Caribbean cruise will embark from Philadelphia, PA for any 11 night - 5 port cruise. Take in the Beautiful Turquoise waters and the laidback Caribbean vibes on Long Bay Beach in Tortola. Greet the green sea turtles and colorful fish as you snorkel the turquoise waters of Turtle Cove, in St. Thomas. For stunning views, take a cable car ride to the peak of Mount Isabel de Torres in Puerto Plata. All of this on the Norwegian Pearl, a mid-size ship with a relaxed atmosphere and elegant decor. The Pearl offers many chic dining options- including the complimentary 24-hour Eatery, O'Sheehan's Neighborhood Bar & Grill, two steakhouses (Cagney's and Moderno Churrascaria) and much more. Looking to turn things up a notch? Head to Bliss Ultra Lounge & Night Club or stop by our dazzling casino, then wind down at the tranquil Mandala Spa.

Price includes: Round Trip Transportation to & from Cruise Pier in Philadelphia , Pre-Paid Cabin Gratuities, Beverage Package with Gratuities, 4 Dinners per Person in Specialty Restaurants, w/ Gratuities, Wi-Fi (150 minutes), \$50 Shore Excursion Credit per Port, \$100 Onboard Credit per Cabin, Taxes & Port Fees.

Price: \$3,439.00 pp based on double occupancy

\$5,299.00 pp based on single occupancy

For Reservations contact: Mitch Gordon @ Curran Travel 215-542-9294

A VALID PASSPORT IS REQUIRED FOR THIS CRUISE

Disclaimer

These tours are a project of and are offered by the South Coastal Delaware Chapter #5226 of AARP, Inc., (hereinafter, the Chapter). The chapter and any agent it may use in arranging these or any other tours are not responsible, in whole or in part, to the tour participants for any loss, damage, or injury, whether financial or otherwise, to persons or property, however caused during or in connection with these or any other tours. These tours are activities conducted by the Chapter and are in no way offered, sponsored, or conducted by AARP, which has no responsibility in connection with such tours. The undersigned travels with the Chapter at their own risk and agrees to hold harmless and indemnify the Chapter as permitted by law, any claims, liabilities, damages, costs, personal injury, or contraction of disease or virus, which may result relating to this travel arrangement. The undersigned agrees to adhere to tour group guideline of the Chapter.

The Chapter reserves the right to cancel programs prior to departure, terminate a program early, and to take action as needed on an individual or group basis when, in the Chapter's opinion, the health, safety or well-being of participant(s) requires such action. Travel insurance is available for all extended tours and is strongly recommended. Those who choose not to purchase travel insurance will be asked to sign a waiver. No refunds will be given for extended tours cancelled by the traveler(s) unless substitute travelers can be found. If a trip is cancelled by the Chapter, full refunds will be provided to all paid participants.

TRIP RULES

- **No refunds for payments can be given unless a substitution can be made. If the trip is cancelled by the Tour Committee full refund will be provided to all paid participants.**
- To cancel a trip 48 hours or less before departure call trip coordinator listed on flyer
- Price subject to change if the price of diesel fuel increases by more than 20% after original contract with bus company
- Overnight trips seating will be assigned when initial payment is received
- Travel Protection Insurance is offered for all overnight trips