



AARP Chapters are separately
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Coastal News

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

www.southcoastalaarp.org

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FEBRUARY 2025

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Sandy Raymond	2024-2026	301-651-2284

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Linda Burns Filer	2025-2026	302-354-5656
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Community Service	Kathy Lesperance	302-537-7845
Chorus	Ann Jaeger	302-645-8023
Legislative/Environmental	Ted Spickler	302-927-0050
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

Our February 18th luncheon and Chapter meeting at Cripple Creek will feature Maureen Madden, retired Acting Director for the Center for Satellite Applications and Research (STAR) at NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). She will speak about how her career journey with NASA & NOAA helped her unlock the keys to her success. Please join us for this enlightening presentation!

Luncheon Menu Choices

Southwest Chicken Bowl

Grilled chicken, seasoned rice, onions, peppers, cherry tomatoes and zesty ranch dressing.

Buffalo Shrimp Caesar

Lightly breaded shrimp tossed in house buffalo sauce served atop romaine lettuce with parmesan cheese, croutons and Caesar dressing.

Flank Steak Sandwich

Grilled flank steak with arugula, melted gouda and jalapeno aioli on an artisan roll served with steak fries.

Dessert: Homemade Oatmeal Cookie with fresh whipped cream.

Coffee, Iced Tea, and Lemonade are included

Cost is \$26.00. Pay by cash or check only.

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

Make Your Reservation AND Meal Choice:

Call or email Mary Ann Dougherty *by noon Monday, February 10th* at 302-541-9412 or madod@aol.com.

Anyone who cancels after the deadline (February 10) or does not attend for any reason will be billed for the full cost of the luncheon.

IMPORTANT: We cannot take walk-ins.
If you send Mary Ann an email or leave her a voicemail, you will receive confirmation from her for your reservation and meal.
If you did not receive her confirmation, you do not have a reservation!

Please wear your name badge to the meeting.

Presidents Corner

February is bringing us days of remembering our U.S. forefathers, George, Abraham and Martin, and many family members and friends who gave their lives to protect our country. This month we often see the striking colors of our flag displayed on many homes and businesses. Let us continue to listen to our patriotic songs and join in the celebration of our country's freedom. We have much to be thankful for – family, freedom, friends and more. Together let us celebrate February with red, white and blue!

Terry Baker, President

Membership

Our current membership (as of January 21) stands at 371 members. We welcome new members – Karla Timmons, Burt Smith, and Lee Joy & Elliott Workman. Membership renewals were due November 1. I reached out to the 98 members who were not current with their dues. Those who didn't respond by the day of the January luncheon were purged from the roster. The membership year begins in September and the 2024-2025 [Membership forms](#) are available on the [Chapter's website](#).

You can mail your new or renewal membership form to the address on the form. Dues remain at \$15 for email delivery of the newsletter or \$18 if you receive the newsletter via US Postal Service.

REMEMBER: Postal mail service is provided to those members who have NO CAPABILITIES of electronic communication. A mailed newsletter may not be received for several days after it is posted on the website. This could be a problem when trying to reserve a spot at the luncheon.

Reach out to your friends and neighbors and encourage them to join us.



Name Badge Update

Magnetic plastic name badges are still available for purchase. **The cost is \$15/badge.** See Kay Houston (at the membership table) at the monthly Chapter meeting or mail your request along with a check to South Coastal DE AARP Chapter #5226, PO Box 225, Ocean View, DE 19970. Be sure that the name on your request is legible.

A magnetic name badge is TOTALLY OPTIONAL. We will continue to provide badges with the plastic sleeve that hang around your neck at no cost to you.

Kay Houston, Chair

Sunshine

If anyone is in need of a card – get well, surgery or sympathy – please call me at (302) 541-0513.

Joan Wolf, Chair

Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee will hold a dine-and-donate fundraiser on Wednesday, March 12, at Fin's Ale House and Raw Bar in Bethany Beach, across from Sea Colony. The restaurant will donate a portion of the dining proceeds to our scholarship fund. We will also have a 50-50 cash raffle.

In 2025, we will donate \$9,000 in scholarships to Indian River High School (IRHS) students and Delaware Technical and Community College adult students (25 years of age or older). Two \$1,500 scholarships are given to students at IRHS. Spread over two semesters, \$6,000 will go to Del Tech students. Come join us for dinner on March 12 and support our scholarship efforts.

Ida Crist, Co-chair

It's Tax Return Time!

The AARP Tax-Aide program will again offer free tax return assistance and preparation to taxpayers with low and moderate incomes, with special attention to those 50 and older. Taxpayers do not need to be members of AARP to use this service.

In the Bethany Beach area, the service will be offered by appointment at the Masterson Center, St. Ann Catholic Church, Route 26, Monday through Wednesday, beginning February 3. Appointments will be from 8:30 AM until 1:00 PM. The phone number to call to make an appointment is 302-858-3575.

When they arrive for their appointment, taxpayers must present photo ID(s), must have proof of Social Security Number (SSN) for every individual to be named on the return, and must bring last year's (2023) Federal and State tax returns.

All 2024 tax documents, including income statements, proof of deductions and credits (when applicable), and health insurance statements, should be removed from their envelopes and made available to the tax preparer. A taxpayer who may be able to itemize deductions should bring a summary of the expenses to be itemized along with supporting documentation.

Kathy Johnson, Tax-Aide Counselor

Chorus

Rehearsals will begin Wednesday, Feb. 19, for the Singers of Note, the chapter's SATB soprano, alto, tenor, and bass (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass) chorus. Practice is from 10 a.m. until 12 noon every Wednesday at Ocean View Presbyterian Church.

The chorus performs concerts in May and June for organizations and the community. New singers are welcome. For more information, contact the director at 302-645-8023.

Ann Jaeger, Director

Community Service

The Community Service Committee would like to thank all those who participated in the “Dollars for Coats for Kids” and “Gifts for Seniors.” Each was a huge success!

Please remember to bring food items to the monthly luncheon meetings for the Food Pantry at the Pyle Center.

Thank you for your generosity.

Kathy Lesperance, Chair

Legislative/Environmental Committee

I am building a new volunteers' email list and will explain to our team how they can join the monthly Zoom meeting with the AARP Delaware State Director of Advocacy, Sheila Grant. Please send an email to me at arcadywood@gmail.com to let me know of your interest in being a member of the Legislative Committee.

Issues that our committee may get involved with this year include:

- Protecting Social Security and Medicare
- Being able to age in our own home/community
- Having affordable housing in our community
- Transportation: getting to the places we need to go, independently
- Improving pedestrian and traffic safety
- Affordability of prescription drugs
- Support for family caregivers (like a caregiver tax credit or nursing home reform)
- Protecting yourself from fraud

Ted Spickler, Chair

Volunteer Positions Open

Website Maintenance: Work with website coordinator Frances Hart to keep the Chapter's website up-to-date and assist with sending email blasts to the Chapter membership. Familiarity with WordPress or Mail Chimp is helpful but not necessary. For more information, please call Frances at 703-801-7216.

Auditors: Review one or more of the Chapter's three financial accounts for 2024 for accuracy and completeness. Please call Terry Baker at 410-812-9063 for more information.

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 Interest Groups Survey

At January's luncheon, attendees were invited to complete a survey with options for interest groups to participate in. The 55 responses that were received will be tallied and presented at next month's meeting and in the newsletter. Stay tuned for results. If you didn't receive a survey and would like a copy, please send an email to Nancy Archey at nancy.archey@gmail.com. If you don't have email, call Nancy at 703-919-8254. She'll send you a copy to return to her if you have an area(s) of interest.

IN MEMORIAM

**Dorothy Watt Rieck
Former Chapter
Membership Director
Chapter Board Member,
2022 - 2024**

It is with great sadness that we share news of Dottie Rieck's passing. She was a Charter Member of our Chapter and instrumental in making our group what it is today.

Dottie and her husband moved to the beach after she retired from her career working on computers for the federal government.

In Bethany Beach, Dottie was active in our local AARP Chapter and the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, as well as bowling leagues and a knitting group.

She will be greatly missed.

For the **FASTEST and **BEST** way to ensure you see a copy of the most recent monthly newsletter:**

Visit the Chapter Website on the 4th Tuesday of each month, August through May, at:

www.southcoastalaarp.org/newsletters

While you're on the [website](http://www.southcoastalaarp.org), check out the other pages for information on Chapter Activities, Travel and more!

CHAPTER TRIPS 2025

April 9. Swing the Musical

trip closed to new reservations

Overview:

Swing! is a musical conceived by Paul Kelly with music by various artists. It celebrates the music of the Swing era of jazz (1930s–1946), including many well-known tunes by artists like Duke Ellington, William "Count" Basie, Benny Goodman and others. It received a nomination for the 2000 Tony Award for Best Musical and other Tony awards.

Swing! combines high energy dancing, singing and acrobatics. The show recreates the swing style of jazz, which used large bands, fixed musical arrangements and solo-driven improvisations. Together with the development of the music, various forms of swing dancing emerged, varying by geographic regions, such as the Lindyhop or Jitterbug in Harlem or the Whip in Houston.

Price includes: Round trip motor coach transportation to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse, N.J., show, lunch, tip, taxes and gratuities.

Price: \$156.00 per person

For Reservations Contact: Karl & Gail Hettel, Escorts (610)442-6117 or hark582@gmail.com

May 21, Norfolk Naval Base Cruise & Cape Charles

Overview:

The two-hour Norfolk naval tour departs daily from Nautilus, home of the Battleship Wisconsin. The captain provides an entertaining and fascinating commentary aboard this Coast Guard inspected vessel. Cruising the smooth waters of the Elizabeth River, tour one of the world's busiest seaports including the world's largest naval base, home of the Atlantic Fleet, made up of destroyers, guided missile cruisers, submarines, aircraft carriers and more. Guests enjoy plenty of comfortable seating, an air-conditioned enclosed deck, an open-air shaded upper deck, snack bar and souvenir shop.

After the cruise we will travel to Cape Charles for lunch on your own and free time.

Price includes: Round trip motor coach, boat cruise, tax, tip and gratuities.

Price: \$115.00 per person

For Reservations Contact: Maria Harding (302)381-0980 or maria.aarp5226@gmail.com

Jim Harding (302)245-8511 or james.aarp5226@gmail.com

June 3-6. Lancaster 2025

trip closed to new reservations

Overview:

Come along with us, on a journey through Lancaster's neighborhood and the Amish Countryside. A trip filled with nothing but fun!

Our trip will start with a Tribute to Toby Keith at the Dutch Apple Theater and finish off the day with cocktails at a get acquainted party. The second day you will get up close and personal with alpacas at Eastland Alpaca Farm. We will travel to the historic town of Lititz for lunch and browsing. Then on to Kitchen Kettle Village to shop some more and then finish up our day at the newly rebuilt Hershey Farm Restaurant for a Grand Smorgasbord. The next day we start with our Amish Inland Tour, but the day would not be complete without ice cream from Lapp Valley Creamery. We save the best for last with Bird in Hand Dinner Theater Show; The Rise & Fall of Miss Fannie's Biscuits and these shows are hilarious. Our last day we will travel to Lancaster Central Market for shopping and lunch on your own. You want to make sure you bring a cooler for all your great tasting buys.

Price includes: Round trip motor coach transportation, 3 nights hotel accommodations at the Travelers Rest Motel, 3 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 3 dinners, Lapp Valley Ice Cream, 1 cocktail party, admission to all venues per itinerary, baggage handling and gratuities (bus driver, guides, room housekeeping).

Price: \$644.00 per person based on double occupancy

\$839.00 per person based on single occupancy

For Reservations Contact: Maria Harding (302)381-0980 or maria.aarp5226@gmail.com

Jim Harding (302)245-8511 or james.aarp5226@gmail.com

Aug 30-Sept 6. Cleveland and Mackinac Island

Overview:

Since 1887 the **Grand Hotel** beckons guests to a bygone era of old-world hospitality and charm. Experience the traditions of sitting in a rocking chair on the world's longest porch with views of the Straits of Mackinac. This National Historic Landmark has always embraced its rich history, while keeping with the current times. Upon arrival at the Grand Hotel we will board a **horse-drawn carriage** for a narrated tour of the island. After our tour you will enjoy a **spectacular lunch in the Grand Dining Room**. The **Rock 'n'Roll Hall of Fame** which takes you through the progression of music. How about a one of a kind train ride adventure on the **Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad** through the Cuyahoga Valley Nation Park. We will tour Cleveland's highlights and after enjoy **Cleveland's Food Tour of Little Italy** while enjoying the city's Italian culture that has existed for generations. **Bronner's Christmas Wonderland** is overflowing with 50,000 trims and gifts. You will enjoy the sights, sounds and spirit of Christmas completely surrounds you. We will travel to Dearborn to the **Greenfield Village** before starting home.

Price includes: Round trip motor coach transportation, 7 nights hotel accommodations, 7 breakfasts, 5 dinners, lunch at the Grand Hotel, Cleveland Food Tour of Little Italy, entrance to all listed venues, luggage handling, all taxes and meal gratuities.

Price: \$1,949.00 per person based on double occupancy
\$2,798.00 per person based on single occupancy

For Reservations Contact: Maria Harding (302)381-0980 or maria.aarp5226@gmail.com
Jim Harding (302)245-8511 or james.aarp5226@gmail.com

Oct 4-Oct 11 The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta trip closed to new reservations

Overview:

What a Fabulous Trip of the Southwest. Our trip will take us to Downtown Phoenix, AZ and Old Town Scottsdale where you will be immersed in the robust culture of the Southwest, we will travel on to Sedona, AZ & Red Rock Country. The landscape is truly unlike anything you could ever imagine. You will enjoy a Scenic Train Ride and visit the Grand Canyon. While on the train this unforgettable ride you will hear folklore and tales from authentic characters and musicians who bring the Old West to life. We will travel on to Albuquerque, NM. We will hear interactive overview of the History of Hot Air Balloons and enjoy the International Balloon Museum. We will experience the breathtaking ascension of the balloons at sunrise in a special reserved area with seating and buffet breakfast. After we will Travel on to White Sands National Park in Las Cruces where you will be in awe of this hidden gem. We will have a guide everyday on this trip to provide tons of history and fun stories.

Price Includes: Round-trip airfare, 7 nights hotel accommodations, 7 breakfast, 2 dinners, guide service everyday, visit and tour Phoenix, Scottsdale and Sedona. Native American jewelry shopping, see the Red Rocks, Grand Canyon Train Experience, Admission to the International Balloon Museum, Admission to the Balloon Fiesta including exclusive entrance to A VIP Viewing Area that includes outdoor seating and buffet breakfast. Visit Las Cruces, tour White Sands National Park, Standard taxes, meal gratuities, baggage handling, motor coach transportation to and from the airport with 40+ passengers, and motor coach transportation while on trip west.

Price: \$3299.00 pp based on double occupancy
\$4399.00 pp based on single occupancy

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

Disclaimer

These tours are a project of and are offered to the South Coastal Delaware Chapter #5226 of AARP. 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 member 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 South Coastal DE AARP #5226 and are in no way offered, sponsored, or conducted by AARP, which has no responsibility in connection with such tours.

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