



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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Secretary	Jane Bartolomeo	302-436-8208
Asst. Secretary	Paula Pinkett	302-228-6284
Treasurer	Sheila Bower	602-688-5300
Asst. Treasurer	Coleen Cardy	724-238-3967
Past President, Advisor	Kathy Johnson	302-829-8956

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Ida Crist	2025-2027	302-732-6336
Joan DeMarco	2023-2025	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 Eisenhardt	2025-2026	302-988-1196
Linda Burns Filer	2025-2026	302-354-5656
Terry Griswold	2024-2025	443-752-4513
Lana Linz	2025-2026	302-245-3502
Mable Ruddo	2025-2026	302-541-8549

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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 March 18th luncheon and Chapter meeting at Cripple Creek will feature Sheila Grant, the Associate State Director of Advocacy for AARP in Delaware. She will talk about the key issues that AARP National is interested in promoting as well as issues specific to those of us living in Delaware. (See page 4 for Ted's article about a possible meet-up with Sheila after the luncheon meeting.) We hope you can join us for Sheila's informative presentation!

Luncheon Menu Choices

Fried Flounder Sandwich

Lightly battered and crispy flounder filet served on a warm brioche roll with smokey slaw, sliced pickles and a side of house-made tartar sauce

Apple Spinach Salad

Spinach and mixed greens, apples, golden raisins, candied walnuts, herb feta cheese and grilled chicken. Served with a side of cider vinaigrette

Corned Beef & Cabbage Plate

Traditional Irish fare of corn beef and cabbage, carrots and potatoes

Dessert: Nutty Irishman Cake: Frangelica-infused cake with whipped Bailey's buttercream frosting

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 by noon Monday, March 10th via email or phone call only (**NO texts**) to Mary Ann Dougherty madod@aol.com or 302-541-9412 (if you can't access email).

If you cancel after the deadline (March 10) or do not attend for any reason, you 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

We've come through a few days of very cold weather, including SNOW. We've brought out our winter clothing, including boots, gloves and heavier coats. Let's hope March has warmer plans for our outings and activities. It's time to adjust to warmer weather and tell Old Man Winter it is time to leave. Our Nominating Committee will be looking for members to fill some vacant positions on the board. Think about how **you** can help AARP to continue to grow and meet the needs of our members and our outreach opportunities. Every one of us has talents to share with each other. By the way, St. Patrick's Day is on the 17th. Put a smile on your lips, a song in your heart, and get ready for dancing. Top o' the morning to all of you!

Terry Baker, President

Membership

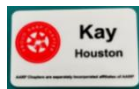
Our current membership (as of February 18, 2025) stands at 382 members. We welcome new members – Barbara & Michael Scheerer, Debbie Boyd, and Maureen Mulroy.

After the January luncheon, 70 members were deleted from the roster for nonpayment of dues. Since then, seven of those have been reinstated. [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 monthly Chapter meeting (at the membership table) 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

Scholarship Committee

The Spring dine and donate fund-raiser, sponsored by the Scholarship Committee, will be from 4-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 12, at Fins Ale House and Raw Bar on Rt. 1 in Bethany Beach, across from Sea Colony.

A percentage of the dining and drink proceeds will be donated by the restaurant to the scholarship fund. There will also be a 50-50 cash raffle. This year we will give \$9,000 in scholarships to two Indian River High School students and four adult students at Delaware Technical and Community College in Georgetown.

Remember to sign up at our monthly luncheon meetings, or call Coleen Cardy, volunteer coordinator, at 724-238-3967, to volunteer for the Artisans Fair and Farmers Market to be held Saturday, May 24, at Lord Baltimore Elementary School. Show times are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the Artisans Fair and from 9 a.m. until at least 1 p.m. for the Farmers Market.

We need volunteers to:

help with parking, be greeters, take lunch orders from exhibitors and deliver the lunches prepared at the food truck, make phone calls to solicit baked goods, help at the baked goods table, to help at the Artisans Auction and 50-50 table and to help the exhibitors transport their wares.

It takes the support of our members to make the Artisans Fair, which is being held for the 15th year, a success. We appreciate your participation.

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 began 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 has chosen the "Home of the Brave" in Milford for our member fundraiser at the April luncheon. The [Home of the Brave](#) is a non-profit whose mission is to reduce homelessness among our military veterans. They provide counseling, employment assistance and many other helpful services. I hope you will contribute to help these veterans fulfill their dream of independence. Containers will be on the tables for your donations. Thank you so much.

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

This month we hear from Sheila Grant, the Associate State Director of Advocacy for AARP in Delaware. I hope you use this opportunity to ask her questions about any issues you feel are relevant.

We are working towards holding a meeting after the luncheon, possibly at the Ocean View CHEER Center, for a deeper discussion of issues.

For interested members, we are able to join Sheila in Dover at legislative committee hearings to talk to legislators and even make a two-minute public comment at those meetings.

In addition, you can join the legislative team and arrange for an opportunity to meet with your own legislators in their office in Dover. 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.

Ted Spickler, 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

Nominating Committee News

Our Chapter's Executive Board will have several openings beginning in 2026, two of which are for Secretary and Treasurer. Both positions are important for the smooth running of our large organization. Here is a shortened job description for each:

The Secretary of the Board is responsible for drafting agendas and attending Board meetings which are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month (except July and August). He/she takes attendance notes on discussions and votes the board recommends, as well as distribution of meeting minutes to Board members and Committee chairs. The Secretary maintains print and electronic copies of all Chapter Board minutes and official documents. An assistant to the Secretary can also be voted into place.

The Treasurer of the Board is a vital position responsible for the Chapter checking, Scholarship money market account and CD's. All financial and bank transactions of the Chapter must be prepared and recorded, and records maintained in good order by the Treasurer. In addition, the monthly membership meetings, held at Cripple Creek, are overseen by the Treasurer, including payments for the luncheon and letters to those who are no-shows. Annual Chapter budget preparation and reporting as well as Delaware Franchise Tax Report prep, assorted other duties revolving around Insurance, Fidelity bond and Post Office and Bulk Mailing are also the Treasurer's responsibilities. It is an important job and one that will be shared with Coleen Cardy, the current and future Assistant to the Treasurer, who helps with the Trips committee financials.

We hope there will be many interested among our talented membership who will like being a part of our Chapter's inner workings. These and other opportunities will be posted here as they become known. Please contact anyone on our Board or Nominating Committee if you would like more information or to volunteer.

(See page one for contact information.)

Terry Gessner

Volunteer Position Available

Website Assistant: Work with website coordinator Frances Hart to help 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.

Chapter Interest Groups Survey

At the January and February luncheons, attendees were invited to complete an interest survey with options to participate in various interest groups. The 60 responses that we received were tallied and some folks volunteered to organize several groups so far.

If you didn't receive a survey and would like a copy, please use the form below, or 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.

Bingo with **Sheila**:

Join your AARP friends for Bingo on the 2nd Monday of each month at [The Salted Rim](#) in Millville. Dinner starts at 5:00 p.m., and Bingo begins at 6:00 p.m. (Bingo is free to play and there are prizes to win!) Feel free to join one or both activities on:

- March 10
- April 14
- May 12
- June 9

Bowling with **Paula**:

If you selected Bowling from the survey, Paula Pinkett has arranged for \$3.50 per game and \$3.50 for shoes with [Millsboro Bowling Lanes](#). Play time starts at 1p.m. on the last Friday of each month:

- March 28
- April 25
- May 30
- June 27

Lunch with **Maureen**:

For those of you who expressed interest in luncheons, you'll receive a call or email from Maureen Eisenhart!



Kudos & Compliments!



Mary Ann Dougherty and Sue Culin! Mary Ann takes and confirms the reservations for the member luncheons and Sue transcribes the list that is used at the registration table. Along with them, Betty Kessler faithfully manages the registration table (never staying for lunch) and is often assisted by Terry Griswold.

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.**

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, check out the other pages for information on Chapter Activities, Travel and more!

----- Interest Survey -----



South Coastal AARP Chapter Groups

Looking for interesting and fun things to do with other Chapter members? Look no further! Share your area(s) of interest and let's get started!

- Bowling – with Paula Pinkett
- Bingo (or Trivia) at Restaurant – with Sheila Bower
- Walking
- Lunch or dinner group
- Book Club

- Pickleball
- Various Card Games
e.g. Bridge, Poker, Euchre
- Trips to Museums/Studios/
Historical Places
- Scrabble

Other area of Interest? _____

I would be willing to organize the following activity: _____

by myself with another member

Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____

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

trip closed to new reservations

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

trip closed to new reservations

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