**RALEIGH-WAKE COUNTY AARP CHAPTER #3689**

**REGULAR CHAPTER MEETING**

**January 16 , 2020**

The meeting was held at Atria Oakridge, [10810 Sandy Oak Lane, Raleigh](http://about:blank/). Co-President Willi Webb welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

**INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT**: Grace Krishnamurty presented an inspirational message.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**: Co-President Willi Webb led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT**: **reported by Wanda Richardson:**

The December 2019, Chapter Meeting report was submitted to the Executive Board for review and approval. Minutes were approved with corrections.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**: **reported by Cynthia Bradley**

* December 1, 2019, beginning checking account balance was $3,431.71.  Receipts totaled $908.00.  Deposits totaled $702.00 . Total expenses were $1,657.87. The total checking balance as of  December 31, 2019, was $2,891.84. Petty cash totaled $50.00 and savings totaled $105.08.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS: reported by Co-President Gayle Gayton**

* Today we have 62 members in attendance out of 77. Co-President Gayle thanked everyone for their support.
* Everyone in attendance received two sets of calendars. One was given by the Sunshine Committee and the other by John Speights which was a two-year calendar.
* Co-President Gayle Gayton gave special thanks to Marjorie Younger and Gerri Phillips,  who have completed their two years as Treasurers and thanked them for all their work.
* Co-President Gayle Gayton welcomed the two new Co-Treasurers, Cynthia Bradley and Claudia Harris.
* Co-President Gayle welcomed Gwenn Weaver who is serving as Co-Secretary with Wanda Richardson.
* Co-President Gayle wants to know about any ideas or suggestions so it can be implemented.
* Co-President Gayton Gayle has started a calendar. Executive Board suggested several additions to the calendar but thought it important to bring it to the members.
* Co-President Gayle asked attendees to think about what we can do to make 2020 better.

suggestions included:

* Trip to Cherokee

Think about mobility for each trip

More trips

Overnight trip

* Mix up where we sit

Help people find places to sit

Mix up where we sit

Sit somewhere different every month

Partner with another member and get to know another person

* Try to keep noise level down

Arrive early so the meeting can start on time and minimize line and crowd at the door

More volunteer hours

Have a speaker to discuss Census information

Have a lawyer talk about wills and trusts, beneficiaries, end of life decisions.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**COMMUNITY SERVICE:** **reported by Oweida Cole:**

"May the New Decade bring you knew strength, new hope, and new dreams; Merry after Christmas.”

The Community Service Committee provided an extension to the Christmas holiday gift giving at Healing Transitions. Just last week Karen Clark donated a conglomeration of toys that literally took four residents to unload.  Needless to say, the ladies were delighted to receive the dozens of plastic balls, collapsible tunnels, wooden train sets, a doll carriage, three-D puzzles, just to name a few for the children's playroom.

* Prior to the delivery of the toys, Cordelia Blackwell donated over 20 pairs of shoes: heels, flats, sneakers, etc.  Ironically, most of the ladies' feet were not able to fit size 6; however, I was able to single out one young lady who wore that size.   She was delighted and proud that I had singled her out and she could actually wear the shoes.
* In the past, we have volunteered at Raleigh Rescue Mission on Capital Boulevard.  We hung the donated clothes on hangers, prepared backpacks with school supplies.  Just recently I had lunch and a tour of the main Raleigh Rescue Mission on East Hargett Street. They provide safe housing, childcare, clothing, counseling, job opportunities, as well as meals. This facility needs assistance, so perhaps the Committee will consider volunteering there periodically.
* Speaking of volunteering, we are soliciting new members for the Community Service Committee, as well as a co- chair in that Anne Best has relinquished her position.  In addition, we also need anyone who is interested in serving on the Scholarship Committee to meet with me briefly at the conclusion of today's meeting.
* We would be remiss if we neglected to thank you again for your generous contributions to the Mittens Tree. We surpassed last year's total with approximately 182 pieces. These gloves, mittens, and hats were distributed to students at four different schools.
* In addition, we would like to thank each and every one who volunteered in 2019.  Whether it was one time or ten times, it doesn't matter, we appreciate your time and effort.  We volunteered for almost 500 hours in 2019.  We are looking forward to working with you in 2020.
* Cordelia Blackwell gave a report on how much was donated this year by our members to the Community Service Committee $1,251.00. Thanks for your donations, we also like to thank Mattie Branch who gave the most for 2019.
* We will meet tomorrow at 1 PM at Nantucket Grill to discuss scholarships.

**Preview of Community Service Upcoming Events**

Recruiting New Members

New Project Initiation

High School/Book Award Criteria

Plan Calendar

**FUNDRAISING:** **reported by Marilyn Pearson:**

* The next Fundraising meeting is February 4, 2019,  at City Barbeque, Falls of the Neuse Road.  Arrive early if you plan to have a meal.  Our meeting will start at 5:00 p.m.
* Party with a Purpose!  Save the date May 16,2019,  2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. – “Our 5th Year Jazz Event Celebration”.  Start thinking about how you will support our community by buying a ticket, becoming a sponsor or selling tickets.  We would like each one of you to participate to help make this our best year ever!  I will solicit your interest at the February meeting.  We raised $1,700.00 and have donated more than $1,200.00.

**HISTORIAN**: **No report.**

**LEGISLATION: reported by Karen Clark: (see attached full report)**

There have been little Congressional and State Legislative actions during the holiday season.  However, the NC General Assembly returns on Tuesday, January 14th for a very short session (one day or so) and likely will adjourn until mid-May.  Expectations are that the Senate will try to overturn the budget but, we are hearing they do not have the votes.  This will leave Medicaid Transformation and Medicaid expansion hanging as well as other important budget items.

Karen Clark is seeking someone to help with the Legislation Committee. If you have an interest, please let her know.

**MEMBERSHIP: reported by Kelly Vick**

* We will be available today before our meeting from 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. to collect dues for 2020 renewals.  You will need your National and Chapter membership cards and the $8.00 membership fee.  Correct change or a check made out to our chapter would be helpful.
* We welcome two visitors for January, Jewell Almond's sister of Cordelia Blackwell, and Willy Sinclair guest of Arlene Lee.
* Wade Harmon is a new member referred by Karen Clark.
* We have registered sixteen new members.  Currently, we have 67 paid members for 2020.
* Five people had perfect attendance in 2019:  Ann Best, Karen Clark, George Gross, Claudia Harris, and Karen Youmans.

**When we have inclement weather, please remember, if Wake County schools are canceled or delayed, there will not be a chapter meeting.**

**NOMINATING:** **reported by Allan Younger:**

The chapter is doing well with no openings at this time.  Karen Clark has asked for someone to assist her with Legislation.

**PROGRAMS**:  **reported by Allan Younger:**

February speaker will be our very own Mark Millikin, who will discuss music from the sixties, play games, and have a sing-along for our Black History Program.

**SUNSHINE reported by Claude Lee:**

The next social luncheon will be **Thursday, February 6th at 11:00 a.m.** – Cape Fear Seafood Company, 832 Spring Forest Road, Raleigh, NC 27609.  A headcount is needed in order for us to be seated as a group.  Please call Karen Youmans at 919-848-4218 or e-mail her at [twingran@jarvisclan.com](http://about:blank/).

There are several members who are having health issues and cannot come to the meetings.  We have been calling them, sending cards and e-mails.  If you know of anyone who is ill or a bereaved family, feel free to call, e-mail them, send your own card or text Claude Lee (919-971-3317) or e-mail him at [claudealeejr@gmail.com](http://about:blank/).

**LUNCH**

**SPEAKER : Walter Cole of Sky port Drones**

Sky port Drones is an Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), Walter Cole is the founder and the son of AARP member Oweida Cole. Walter Cole visited us to talk about Drones and its purpose. Sky port Drones is the first company to obtain an FAA Part 107 Commercial Remote Pilots License in the Southeast.  At Sky port Drones, they  are  knowledgeable experienced pilots offering a wide variety of aerial services that span multiple industries. Drone technology plus property marketing utilizes new drone technology to capture aerial imagery of both commercial and residential real estate. Sky port also offers workshops and training seminars, Mapping,  surveying, first response,  disaster relief, Media and cinematograph.

**TELEPHONE: reported by Pat Toothman**

Please return phone calls by Friday morning after the call as to whether you will be attending the meeting and eating lunch.  If you do not return the call, we will not count you for lunch.  The purpose of the Telephone Committee is to get a count for lunch to Atria’s staff the Saturday morning before the next meeting.  If you need to cancel your lunch and can’t reach your caller, please call **Pat Toothman (919-846-8477)**.  If you sign-up to eat lunch and do not come to the meeting, we will have to pay for your lunch

* Pat Toothman will make more “No Lunch” signs.
* Welcome, Tia Charles to the telephone committee.

**BIRTHDAY BASKET: Co-President Gayle Gayton led the group in singing Happy Birthday**

**January Birthday’s:**Stewart Vick, Tony Gandy, Edmond Gayton, Felex Gathings, Pearl McCollum.

We have a basket filled with gifts for birthday members to choose one gift.  Anyone who misses their birthday month can get a gift from the basket when they return.

**WEBMASTER: no report**

**50/50 Drawing**Hannah Gathings reported:

Winners for January Congratulation!!  Pauline Luton and  Gwenn Weaver

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

The next General Meeting is February 20, 2020, at 10:45 a.m., at Atria Oakridge.

The next Executive Board meeting is March 12, 2019, at 1:30 p.m., Atria Oakridge.

Respectfully submitted,

Co-Secretary Gwenn Weaver

Co-Secretary Wanda Richardson

(Updates by Claudia Harris)

**LEGISLATION: reported by Karen Clark: (full report)**

There have been little Congressional and State Legislative actions during the holiday season.  However, the NC General Assembly returns on Tuesday, January 14th for a very short session (one day or so) and likely will adjourn until mid-May.  Expectations are that the Senate will try to overturn the budget, but we are hearing they do not have the votes.  This will
leave Medicaid Transformation and Medicaid expansion hanging as well as other important budget items.
There has been no movement on the US House-passed Prescription drug bill which AARP supports.   The bill is in the Senate but is not expected to be considered.   The impeachment hearings have taken precedence over other pieces of legislation, so we expect little movement.
2020 will be an election year with new Congressional maps in play.  The  new maps have produced 2 districts that are more competitive and have prompted 3 sitting members of Congress to forgo running: Congressman Mark Meadows CD 11 (Western Part of NC), Congressman Mark Walker (CD 6 Triad Region), and Congressman George Holding (CD 2 Wake County).  Also, of note for the 2020 election, the voter ID legislation which was due to
be implemented for the March primary will not be enforced.   In December, a US District court judge issued an injunction stopping the implementation of the law.  The state will appeal.
Some issues at the Federal level are: The drug bill that the House of Representatives passed last month represents real progress — and we’re thankful for advocates like you who helped see this through.

**Price hikes for parks?**
Seniors might face higher prices during peak visiting times at National Parks if a proposal from the Department of the Interior is enacted. The Interior committee’s recommendation is part of a group of proposals for modernizing the National Parks Service.  National Parks are incredibly popular with older visitors that’s why AARP is speaking out against the proposal.

**Food assistance at risk**
Food assistance for seniors could be at risk under a new proposal from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. More than 600,000 households with a person 60 or older could lose automatic eligibility for federal assistance under this proposed change to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
This could harm older Americans and the millions of low-income Americans
who currently receive SNAP benefits.

Please follow these issues and remember you have to get involved in politics as if your life depends on it because it does.