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

**REGULAR CHAPTER MEETING**

**September 19, 2019**

The meeting was held at Atria Oakridge, [10810 Sandy Oak Lane, Raleigh](https://maps.google.com/?q=10810+Sandy+Oak+Lane,+Raleigh&entry=gmail&source=g). Co-President Willi Webb welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m.

**INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT**: Pat Toothman presented an inspirational message.

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

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

The July report was sent to the Executive Board for review and approval. Minutes were approved with corrections.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**: Gerri H. Phillips reported:

August 1, 2019, beginning checking account balance was $3,011.93. Receipts totaled $434.00.

Deposits totaled $ 434.00. Total expenses were $274.04. The total checking balance as of August 31, 2019, was $3,170.91. Petty cash totaled $50.00 and savings totaled $105.04.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**: **Presidential Message** led by Co-President Willi Webb

* Casey Woods from Atria Oakridge visited the meeting with announcements. On September 27, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. Atria Oakridge will be sponsoring a Luau, on September 29, 2019, there will be an Alzheimer Walk, and October 1, 2019, there will be a Festival, you must RSVP by September 28th. on October 17, 2019, the Health Fair 2019 she thanked AARP for partnering up with Atria Oakridge.
* Co-President Gayle Gayton spoke on the Listening Board, write your comments down and place on Listening Board all comments will be addressed.
* *“Mittens”* collection will begin September, October, and November, place by Listening Board.
* Co-President Gayle Gayton spoke about the Health Fair 2019 scheduled for October 17, 2019, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. A headcount is needed (only have space for 65 attendees). Classes will be Mental Health, Dementia Virtual Reality Tour, Fraud Prevention.
* Vice-President Cordelia Blackwell passed out assignments for the health fair and the sign-up sheet if you plan to attend.
* Co-President Willi Webb announced there will be no charge for the lunch day of the event. In the Chronicle this month is the schedule for the event.
* Co-President Willi Webb spoke about how Atria really accommodates this chapter. Any issues please bring to the Co-Presidents of this Chapter.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**COMMUNITY SERVICE:** **reported by Ann Best:**

* On August 27, 2019, Barbara Faison, Co-President Gayle Gayton, Edmond Gayton, Cordelia Blackwell, and her husband George Blackwell, Rufus Henry and Shirley Henry, volunteered to help deliver over 40,000 petition signatures from North Carolinians urging Senator Thomas Tillis to take immediate action to help lower prescription drug prices. They volunteered with the AARP’s State Office, Triangle Region.
* On September 9, 2019, six members of our chapter volunteered at the Food Pantry of Urban Ministries. Marjorie Younger, Allan Younger, Cathy Little, Willi Webb, Claude Lee, and Anne Best. They stocked the shelves and helped 31 families with their shopping. It is a heartwarming experience and we welcome any AARP members who would like to join us on the 2nd Monday of each month.
* Oweida Cole took women’s clothing and toiletries to Healing Transitions.
* The Community Service contribution for August was $83.00 and will be donated to The Shepherd’s Table Soup Kitchen.
* The Committee is planning to get together for a luncheon, meeting date to be announced soon. We will discuss the criteria for a high school scholarship from our chapter.

**NOMINATING**: :

* We have one vacancy for a Co-Secretary. This person will be working in partnership with another Co-Secretary, and responsible for recording minutes for our chapter and board meetings.
* Co-Treasurer Geraldine Phillips and Marjorie Younger will be stepping down in December 2019. Claudia Harris and Cynthia Bradley will be the new Co-Treasurer’s starting in January 2020.

**PROGRAMS**:

Speaker this month, Monica Gaal of Wake County Master Gardner “Vegetable Gardening”.

November speaker will be on Health Care.

**FUNDRAISING:** **reported by Marilyn Person:**

This is the fifth year for the Jazz Fundraiser, “Smooth Ivy” will be performing on May 16, 2020, from 2 p.m.-5 p.m. the theme is “*Party with a Purpose*” tickets will go on sale January 2020. From Smooth Ivy, Gina Revae and her sister-in-law, Elaine Johnson was present today.

**Super Jackpot** tickets are on SALE TODAY and November. The drawing will be at the November meeting. 1st prize half the money, 2nd prize an iPad. Pat Toothman will be donating some gifts. Cost of tickets one for $3.00 and two for $5.00. Proceeds are to support our charities!!! Fundraising is how we make a difference in the community.

**HISTORIAN**: **Thelma Blake – No Report**

Co-President Willi Webb announced that if anyone has pictures from the Chapter’s Anniversary Event, please send electronically if you can, photos will also be accepted.

**LEGISLATIVE**: **reported by Karen Clark:** (see attachment)

Legislative Schedule Still in Stalemate, limited bills moving, legislative conferences this month The House continues to stay in session waiting for a few democrats to be absent so that they have the ratio of votes to override the Governor’s veto. Because of this, no NC House Representatives attended the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL). A handful of republican and democrat senators were able to attend NCSL and get excused absences from voting. Next week is the conservative ALEC conference in Austin. We continue to hear the Democrats are staying together to avoid a veto overturn. The Small Business Retirement Savings Options Joint Legislative Study Committee Bill (H604) passed Senate Rules on Tuesday, August 6th Senate

 Rules.

 Remember, you have to get involved in politics as if your life depends on it because it does.

**MEMBERSHIP: reported by Co-President Willi Webb:**

We are happy to welcome to our Chapter one new member for September, George Blackwell. His contact information will be listed in our directory on the website.

We are happy to welcome visitors Gina Revae guest of Marilyn Pearson, Elaine Johnson guest of Marilyn Pearson, Malissa Johnson guest of Pauline Luton and Tom Harlman guest of Karen Clark.

We will start collecting dues for 2020 renewals at our November meeting. All renewals should be completed by December 2019, to complete our 2020 Membership Directory.  We will be available for membership renewals before our monthly meetings from 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. 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 are asking all chapter members to arrive for the monthly meeting at 10:45 a.m. to be ready for the 11:00 meeting. If you invite a guest, please ask your guest to arrive at 10:30 a.m. to register at the membership table.

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

**SUNSHINE: reported by Claude Lee**:

All members are welcomed to attend the next social luncheon on **Thursday, October 3rd at 11:30 a.m.** – Kanki Japanese House of Steaks, North Market Square, 4500 Old Wake 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](mailto:twingran@jarvisclan.com). **We need the headcount by Wednesday evening, October 2nd.**

We have been calling, sending cards, and e-mails to the ill and bereaved. If you know of anyone who is ill or a bereaved family, feel free to call, e-mail, or send a card. Claude Lee  [claudealeejr@gmail.com](mailto:claudealeejr@gmail.com).

**BIRTHDAY BASKET: Claude Lee led the group in singing Happy Birthday**

Eileen Breckstein, Carmel Welch, Cynthia Bradley, Kaye Denning, Alvita Roberts, Brenda Smith, Dorothy Wilson, Mary Weathers, and Claude Lee.

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.

**TELEPHONE: reported by Pat Toothman**

Please return phone calls by Friday evening 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 or email **Pat Toothman.** If you sign-up to eat lunch and do not come to the meeting, we will have to pay for your lunch.

Pat Toothman announced to be careful of the Medicare scam and Co-President Willi Webb stated to be careful of scam emails being sent don’t open strange emails.

**WEBMASTER: reported by Claudia Harris**

If anyone has pictures, please send it to be put on the website.

Our website address is <http://AARPchapter3689.weebly.com>. You will need a password when you access “Members Only” section, contact Claudia Harris at charris114@nc.rr.com) if you do not have the password or if you have changes to your information listed in the directory.

**LUNCH**

**SPEAKER:**

**Monica Gaal of Wake County Master Gardner “Vegetable Gardening”**

NC State Extension is the largest outreach program at NC State University. Based in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, millions of North Carolina citizens each year through local centers in the state's 100 counties and with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

This program partners with communities to deliver education and technology that enrich the lives, land, and economy of North Carolinian's guidance about successfully growing vegetables, herbs, fruits, flowers and ornamentals in your landscape.

The program is funded by Wake County and the State. The program offers free advice to the residents of North Carolina. The program does not give advice to farmers or commercial landscaper’s

If you would like to become a Master Gardner, they offer classes for five months and meet once a week.

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

The 50/50 winners for August were Helena Nabors and Edmond Gayton.

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

The next General Meeting is November 19, 2019, at 10:45 a.m., at Atria Oakridge.

The next Executive Board meeting is November 14, 2019, at 1:30 p.m., Atria Oakridge.

Respectfully submitted,

Co-Secretary Wanda Richardson

**LEGISLATIVE Full Report (Attachment)**

* Legislative Schedule Still in Stalemate, limited bills moving, legislative conferences this month The House continues to stay in session waiting for a few Democrats to be absent so that they have the ratio of votes to override the Governor’s veto. Because of this, no NC House Representatives attended the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL). A handful of Republican and Democrat Senators were able to attend NCSL and got excused absences from voting.
* Next week is the conservative ALEC conference in Austin. We continue to hear the Democrats are staying together to avoid a veto overturn. The Small Business Retirement Savings Options Joint Legislative Study Committee Bill (H604) passed Senate Rules on Tuesday, August 6th Senate  Rules.
* As expected, the bill was amended on the Senate floor to specify a member of the study committee is experienced in retirement savings investment. It passed the Senate unanimously on August 9th and has been sent to the House for concurrence. Hopefully, the House will hear the bill for concurrence next week. We plan to have some communications/social media around this bill as soon as it is final. Skinny/Association Health Plans – S86 “Small Business Health Care Act” moving forward. Unfortunately, with strong bipartisan support, this bill is moving through the House (82-32 vote count) and Senate (40-8), despite opposition from health advocacy groups, BCBS, etc. It is seen as supporting small businesses and sometimes our HB604 bill is related to/compared with this one as far as aggregating small businesses to provide health care or retirement savings options. The small business community like realtors and retail merchants are just desperate to be able to offer some type of health care plan. The disruption to the system and negative impact on the 50-64 will be bad if/when implemented. The coalition working to defeat this bill is now focusing on convincing the governor to veto the bill. The problem is that it looks like it has the support to overturn the veto. Healthy NC SB 361 – This is a bill that started as a Certificate of Need waiver bill, but that part was later taken out and running in a separate bill. The psychology inter-jurisdictional compact laws and the elimination of redundancy in adult home care inspections remained.
* Medicaid telehealth policy updating provisions were added that AARP supports. A Lupus awareness and advisory council was added as well as a new Health Care Solutions

Task Force (that looks at innovative solutions to health care access issues).

* APRN/SAVE Act (S143/H185). We are working to get handwritten letters to the 20 target legislators. While at the same time supporting closing the coverage gap. Duke Energy/S559 Bill Has been quiet but, we hear something may be brewing, possibly around environmental amendments which would add cost to ratepayers. FIBER Act – HB 431, expanding broadband by enabling counties and cities to build/lease infrastructure to underserved populations. Will likely not pass the Senate in the near term, but we are exploring helping pass this bill on the House side.

**At the National level**

* AARP is still working on the ‘Stop Rx Greed,’ a nationwide campaign aimed at lowering prescription drug prices. The goal of AARP’s sustained campaign is to help drive down drug prices for North Carolinians and all Americans by advocating for a variety of legislative, executive, and regulatory actions at both the federal and state level.

*And, remember, you have to get involved in politics as if your life depends on it because it does.*