



COASTAL NEWS

AARP Chapters are separately incorporated affiliates of AARP

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

www.southcoastalaarp.org

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I prepared this third message to you, I found myself reflecting on all that has happened since the start of my tenure, including the lengthy discussions about our luncheon meeting location. You will soon make that decision, and I will not address it further here.

Looking ahead to March, I was struck by the many opportunities it brings. We are emerging from one of the harshest winters I have experienced on Delmarva—early, cold, and dreary, keeping many of us indoors. Yet March offers reasons to celebrate, including religious observances such as Purim, Eid, and Palm Sunday, along with traditions like Mardi Gras and St. Patrick's Day. These moments remind us of the richness of our diverse communities and the value of learning from one another.

Most importantly, March 20 marks the first day of Spring—a season of rebirth. Even now, small green shoots and early blooms signal warmer, brighter days ahead. Spring reminds us that renewal is always possible.

As we welcome this season, let us also consider how we can bring warmth, compassion, and joy to others, especially those who may still feel isolated or discouraged. Small acts of kindness can make a meaningful difference.

*Peace and love,
Caryn Cleveland-Short*

THIS MONTH'S LUNCHEON PROGRAM & NEW LOCATION

Our March 17th luncheon and Chapter meeting at **Hocker's Family Restaurant** will feature [AARP Delaware](#) State Director Lucretia Young, Communications Manager Kim Wharton and Advocacy Manager Bonnie Wu. They'll be discussing the current AARP initiatives at the State level, and we'll find out how our Chapter can assist them in this effort.

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

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

HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS? WE'RE TRYING OUT THE NEW LUNCHEON VENUE AGAIN IN MARCH

We are pleased to announce that our March luncheon will again be held at Hocker's Family Restaurant at 30244 Cedar Neck Rd. in Ocean View.

Why the Change?

This new venue offers increased capacity, comfortably accommodating up to 200 people. That's 80 more than we have been able to invite in the past. With this extra space, we anticipate no longer needing a waiting list for members wishing to attend, ensuring everyone who wants to join us can do so. February's luncheon meeting was attended by more than 150 members! We experienced a few wrinkles which we're working to iron out for March.

Details to Remember

- **Doors open at 11 am and not before.** This is so the staff has enough time to set up and arrange the space for our large group.
- **Parking:** The restaurant boasts a large, accessible parking lot in front of the building.
- The price is \$26 per person.

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 UPDATE

This month we welcome seven new members: Robyn & Mark Gonitzke, Irene & William Hilbert, Karen Spair, and Marguerite & Roger Weber. 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!

As of February 7, 2026 the membership stands at 426. I am glad that we have a steadfast following, and I'm always happy to see so many of you at our luncheons.

Accessing the Newsletter

We would like to remind all members that you can access the latest newsletter via our website at www.southcoastalaarp.org. The newsletter is posted on the [website](#) on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Our volunteers work diligently to keep the email distribution lists current, but despite their best efforts, delivery issues can occasionally occur. Checking the website ensures you always have access to the most recent updates.

Kay Houston, Membership Chair



SUNSHINE

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

Joan Wolf, Chair

IT'S TAX RETURN TIME!

The AARP Tax-Aide program is again offering 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. Tax return preparation will begin February 2, and appointments will be available Monday and Tuesday between 8:30 AM and 2:00 PM. The phone number to call to make an appointment is 302-858-3575. When they call to make an appointment, taxpayers will be given information about the documentation that they will need to bring with them when they come for their appointment.

***Kathy Johnson, Past-President,
Tax-Aide Counselor***

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Dine and Donate

New place. New procedure for the Dine and Donate from 12:00 pm to 8:30 pm on Thursday, March 26, to benefit the scholarship fund.

The Dine and Donate and Basket Auction will be held at Hocker's Family Restaurant in Cedar Neck, a new venue for our Dine and Donate. You will need to present a coupon to the waitress for the Scholarship Committee to get credit for a percentage of your food and drink order. We will have a representative handing out the coupons at the door.

Food orders of prime rib, the special that evening, and Happy Hour specials will not count toward the total on which the restaurant donates a percentage to the Scholarship Fund. The restaurant will give us a percentage of the proceeds on all other food and drinks. Hocker's Family Restaurant is accessible for anyone with mobility issues, and parking is ample and convenient.

For the first time at a Spring Dine and Donate, we will hold a basket auction with wonderful items and gift cards. We will also have our customary 50-50 cash raffle. Come and support the Scholarship Fund and have a lot of fun.

Artisans Fair

The Artisans Fair will be held Saturday, May 23, at Lord Baltimore Elementary School from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., closing one hour earlier than last year. Contact Coleen Cardy, volunteer coordinator, at 724-238-3967 or coleen.cardy@yahoo.com to find out how you can help. You can also sign up at the monthly chapter luncheon meetings in March and April. It takes many volunteers to make our largest fund-raiser for the scholarship fund a success. We greatly appreciate your participation.

Ida Crist, Scholarship Chair

SEEKING LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR AND NEW MEMBERS

Kathy Johnson, Past Chapter President, is heading up the search committee for a Chair of the Legislative Committee. This position is currently vacant. If you think you might be interested in this position, want to join the Committee as a member or would like more information, please contact Kathy Johnson at kaifinancial@gmail.com or 302-829-8956.

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 this year's Artisan Fair, event photos and the latest travel opportunities.

Frances Hart, Web Coordinator

JOIN A SOUTH COASTAL AARP CLUB!

BINGO at the [Salted Rim Bar & Grill](#) at 35553 Atlantic Ave. in Millville is held on the second Monday of each month. You can join the group for dinner around 4:30 pm and/or play Bingo (free, w/prizes) at 6:00 pm. Play **Monday, March 9th**.

Questions? Call Sheila Bower at 602-688-5300.

BOWLING with Paula Pinkett (302-228-6284) is at [Millsboro Bowling Lanes](#) on the last Friday of the month at 1:00 pm. Please arrive at 12:45 pm. The cost is \$3.50 per game and \$3.50 for shoes. Save these upcoming dates: **Friday, March 27th** and April 24th to join Paula and other members for some active fun!

LUNCHEONS with Maureen Eisenhart are held on the fourth Monday of the month at a variety of great local restaurants.

This month we'll be at [Fenwick Pub](#), 305 Coastal Hwy, Fenwick Island on **March 23rd at 12 noon**.

RSVP by March 20th to Maureen at 302-988-1196.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Community Service Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed towards "Payment of an Electric Bill" through the Pyle Center in Roxanna. You are a very generous group.

We sponsored a dental program at the Phillip Showell Elementary School in February. Dr. George Bennitt of Dental Associates of Delaware in Ocean View presented the program which was very well received by the children.

**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](#).

CHORUS

The first rehearsal of the Singers of Note, our chapter's chorus, was Wednesday, Feb. 25, at Ocean View Presbyterian Church. The rehearsals will continue from 10 am to 12 noon on Wednesdays throughout the spring.

Five concerts have already been scheduled in June, including the chorus' performance at the chapter luncheon on Tuesday, June 16. Look for dates of all the concerts in upcoming issues of the newsletter.

Anyone who is interested in joining the chorus should contact Laura Weaver at lweaveraarpchorus@gmail.com or 302-382-4564. You do not need to audition or even read music to join. We can make music together.

Laura Weaver, Director

PHOTOS FROM OUR FEBRUARY LUNCHEON

Below: Meeting and luncheon photos taken at Hocker's Family Restaurant



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	<i>Vacant</i>	
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	302-245-0059
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	302-245-0059
	Cookie Butts	302-245-0886

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.

* LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS *

RSVP BY: Noon, Monday, March 9th

To reserve your spot for the luncheon,
SEND AN EMAIL with your meal selection to:
Mary Ann Dougherty at madod@aol.com

FOOD ALLERGIES?

Include specific information in your RSVP!

***ONLY* IF YOU'RE UNABLE TO USE EMAIL:**
you may call Mary Ann at 302-541-9412.

Mary Ann will confirm receipt of all messages.

Cost: \$26.00. Payable by cash or check only
on the day of the luncheon.

MARCH MENU at Hocker's Family Restaurant

Bangers & Mash: Pork Sausage, slow seared then baked to perfection. Served with mashed potatoes and peas.

Corned Beef & Cabbage: Traditional Corned Beef & Cabbage, slow cooked with red potatoes and carrots until tender.

Fish & Chips: Beer-battered flounder, fried to a golden brown and served with thick cut French fries.

Dessert: Chocolate cake with a peppermint cream cheese icing

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

DOORS OPEN AT 11:00 AM

Lunch is at 12 noon.

Chapter news, announcements and program will follow lunch.

Remember to wear your name badge!

We cannot take walk-ins. If you send Mary Ann an email at madod@aol.com, 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 March 9th, or do not attend for any reason, you will be billed for the full cost of the luncheon unless there's a waiting list.

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 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

May 20 The Philadelphia Phillies Baseball Game

Overview:

Take me out to the ball game! Spend the day at the Philadelphia Phillies ballpark.

Price includes: Round Trip Motor Coach Transportation, ticket into the game, tax and tip. No alcoholic beverages allowed! You can bring your lunch in a clear bag, no open bottles.

Price: \$120.00 per person

For Reservations contact: Denise McCallion (302)367-4157 or denise81550@gmail.com

June 3, 2026 Peddler's Village

Overview:

Peddler's Village is a storybook village with charming colonial-style buildings, award-winning gardens, and distinctive shopping, dining, and lodging. For more than [60 years](#), visitors have followed the winding brick pathways to experience exceptional dining and explore the best of Bucks County shopping. Spend the day on your own enjoying shopping, dining, and wandering around the beautiful village, lunch is on your own.

Price includes: Round Trip Motor Coach Transportation, tax and tip.

Price: \$82.00 per person

For Reservations contact: Karl or Gail Hettel (610)442-6117 or hark582@aol.com

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 an 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 an 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.

Overview:

This Caribbean cruise will embark from Philadelphia, PA for an 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