

Shelton AARP Chapter 3240 Membership Meeting

September 17, 2019

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:38 p.m. by Walter Roog. A moment of silence was observed for the victims of 9/11 and hurricane Dorian. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and the singing of God Bless America.

Secretary's Report: Linda Gabor

Minutes of the May 21, 2019 membership meeting have been posted on the Chapter Documents page of the website.

A copy of the May minutes is available for review in the binder on the front table.

Website / Newsletter: Linda Gabor

The September newsletter has been emailed and posted to the website. Copies of the newsletter are available on the front table. Feel free to take a copy to give to someone you know who may be interested in our chapter.

Photos from the May meeting and June Luncheon are posted to the Speakers page of the website, and are also in the binder on the sign in table.

Please watch the website for the latest information on our upcoming events and let Linda know if you have any questions or suggestions.

Treasurer's Report: Charles Vollaro

Report for August 2019

Beginning Balance (as of 7/31/2019)	\$2,326.40
Income	\$0.00
Expenses	\$69.95
Ending Balance (as of 8/31/2019)	\$2,256.45

Membership: Vincent Ribeiro

We are now accepting 2020 chapter dues.

Programming: Walter Roog

Tickets for the Holiday Luncheon will be available after the meeting.

Hospitality: Joan Platt

Baked goods are available after the meeting.

Community Outreach: Walter Roog

Our chapter will have a table at the Senior Health and Wellness Fair being held at the Shelton Senior Center on October 28, 2019.

Health Advocate: Dot Ward

Dot provided copies of an article on Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE).

Sunshine: Dot Ward

No report.

Legislative: Byron Peterson

No report.

Public Relations: Marilyn Plainer

Marilyn had extra flyers for next month's meeting for those who want to post them. The speaker is Tracey Tate from the Shelton Historical Society.

Nominating: TBD

No report.

Other Business:

None

Program – Stop Rx Greed

Presented by John Erlinghauser from the state AARP Office in Hartford

The Stop Rx Greed campaign has been going on for almost a year. AARP is calling on the President, Congress and state governments to cut drug prices now. AARP urges Congress to allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices, cap out-of-pocket prescription costs, and ban “pay-for-delay” deals preventing the production of lower cost generic drugs.

The median senior income is about \$26,000 per year. The average annual cost of brand name prescriptions is \$7,000. For more chronic conditions the cost can be up to \$80,000 per year.

The US pays the highest prescription costs in the world. Drug companies have a 20 year monopoly on patents for new drugs and can charge as much as they want. They then coerce generic drug companies to delay coming out with generic drugs (pay to delay).

The Federal government can't negotiate for lower drug prices for Medicare. The VA, which can negotiate, pays 80% less than Medicare. AARP wants to allow the Federal government to negotiate for Medicare the same as the VA.

Medicare Part D prescription costs have risen multiple times the rate of inflation. The average senior takes 4.5 prescriptions daily. 40% of seniors have to choose between food and medicine.

Of the 10 major pharmaceutical companies, 9 spend more on advertising than on R&D. A lot of R&D money comes from tax payers, not from shareholders.

The state AARP came close to having a bill pass to allow importing drugs from Canada. This is not a long-term solution, but the more states that do this, the more pressure it puts on to lower drug costs.

The pharmaceutical lobby is the second most powerful lobby in Washington, after the gun lobby. The companies make contributions to politicians. AARP also lobbies but does not make contributions or endorsements. AARP has 40 million members, something the pharmaceuticals don't.

The Medicare Assistance Program is available to help pay for prescriptions and Medicare premiums paid by Social Security. AARP has fought putting asset tests on this help.

John handed out a petition for attendees to complete and submit.

Adjournment

The business meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m. The program ended at 2:24 p.m., followed by refreshments and social hour.

Respectfully Submitted: Linda Gabor