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<< **GENERIC (Continued):** Rother added, "Specialty drugs are already expensive because of their development costs, so it doesn't help that many are biologic drugs that don't face generic competition. That's why we need health reform now. Bringing generic biologic drugs to the market can dramatically lower costs for the millions of Americans who can't afford the life-saving drugs they need."

As a part of its health reform campaign, AARP is urging Congress to address the rising cost of prescription drugs, particularly through policies that will bring more generic competition to the marketplace. Cost saving measures include allowing Medicare to negotiate directly with drug makers, closing

loopholes that allow brand name drug makers to pay off generic drug producers, allowing for the legal importation of safe prescription drugs from abroad, and creating a pathway for the approval of generic versions of biologic drugs.

The list of prescription drugs analyzed in the AARP "Rx Watchdog Report" is based on the drugs most widely prescribed to Medicare Part D beneficiaries. Price changes are measured using changes in the wholesale acquisition cost (WAC) as published by the Medi-Span Price-Chek PC database.

For more information, visit AARP.org and HealthActionNow.org. [ggd](#) ☺

One day at the rest home, an old man and woman are talking. Out of nowhere the woman says, **"I can guess your age."** The man doesn't believe her, but tells her to go ahead and try. **"Pull down your pants,"** she says. He doesn't understand but does it anyway. She inspects his rear end for a few minutes and then says, **"You're 84 years old."** **"That's amazing,"** the man says. **"How did you know?"** **"You told me yesterday."**



Two cows were chatting over the fence between their fields. The first cow said, **"I tell you, this mad-cow disease is really pretty scary. They say it is spreading fast; I heard it hit some cows down on the Johnson Farm."** The other cow replies, **"Man, I ain't worried, it don't affect us ducks."**

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AARP
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Choice

April 2009
Volume 13 - 4
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The Newsletter Of AARP Chapter 1952

Warner Robins, Georgia
"To Serve - Not To Be Served"
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Meeting Dates/Time: **Wednesday, April 22nd** (10:00 A.M.) and **Wednesday, May 27th** (10:00 A.M.)
Location: Wellston Center - 155 Maple Street | Warner Robins, GA 31093

Officers	Names	Telephone	Board Of Directors	Telephone
President	Frank Gadbois	953-7788	Ivis Bedrick	923-4533
Vice President	Bob Watson	228-1206	Phyllis Blount	956-4134
Secretary	Eddie Brooks	922-4049	Harris McMillan	923-8369
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Chaplain	Winona Smith	923-6997	Rosalie Montes	952-7524
Choice Editor/Typist	Greg Davis	318-0471	William Hancock	923-7312
			Nancy Harrison	922-1526

Birthdays For April

Joyce Hutcherson	1 st	Kay Cunningham	7 th	Justine Nolen	9 th	Ann Gaudet	11 th
Sybil Bartles	14 th	Bill Sutton	22 nd	William H. Roy, Jr.	23 rd	Eddie Brooks	24 th

Birthdays For May

Leokadia Kolodziej	4 th	Freda Fairfield	7 th	Theresa Godt	7 th	Lyn Caskey	13 th
Howard Jordan	13 th	Evelyn Mickels	14 th	John Padgett	16 th	Bob Watson	17 th
Walter Huckeba	20 th	Marilou Dixon	27 th	John Echols	28 th		

WE CARE

For each new morning with its light, For rest and shelter of the night, For health and food, For love and friends, For everything Thy goodness sends. **Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)** **"Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted."** **Matthew 5:4**

Minutes From March's Meeting: In the absence of the president, (Vice-President) **Bob Watson** called the meeting to order at 10 A.M. and did prayer. **Harris McMillian** led the Pledge Of Allegiance. **Ivis Bedrick** read the minutes of the previous meeting - minutes were approved by a majority of the members present and were entered into the record. **John Echols** (Treasurer) gave the financial report for February 2009. **Bob Watson** briefly spoke about insurance premiums and advised the group against selling their premiums too early. Helen Daly (presently in charge of distributing, collecting, and the signing in of AARP members) stated that she need a volunteer telephone caller. **Sue** _____ accepted. **Helen Daly** also stated that she needs a volunteer sign-in person. If interested, please contact President, **Frank Gadbois** at 953-7788. **Bob Watson** introduced guest speaker **Tom Pryor** (Habitat For Humanity - Warner Robins). **Mr. Pryor** gave an interesting lecture on who qualifies for housing and how each of us can take an active part in this organization. He stated that since 1991 there have been forty-one (41) homes built in Warner Robins. With everyone in favor, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 A.M.

Provided By Eddie Brooks (Thank You!) [ggd](#) ☺

Middle Georgia Community Crusade: April 27 - 30, 2009 with Dr. Tony Evans, Evangelist Nick Vujcic, Evangelist Willie Raines and other guests. Perry Ag Center and Second Baptist Church locations!
Contact 478/953-7480 or visit www.MiddleGeorgiaCommunityCrusade.com for details!

President's Message: We need to find a replacement for our membership position that Howard and Grace Jordan so ably filled for so long. **Helen Daly** has kindly filled in for the past three months for which we are all grateful. As we all know, its hard to find volunteers for our AARP chapter positions that make our chapter a going concern. Perhaps several of you could volunteer to take over this important membership job. Please volunteer!

Frank W. Gadbois, President--AARP Chapter 1952

Editor's Notes: Newsletters will be available at our meetings and will continue to be mailed to our advertisers and sponsors. We're still updating our membership roster (**THANK YOU HELEN DALY**) so please renew/update your membership ... still a "bargain" at only **\$5.00/year!**

For advertisers, your support of our newsletter is an exceptional value at only \$4.00/Month (**\$48.00/Year - Prorated**). Welcome our newest advertiser ... **Kleenco Carpet Cleaners!** If you know **ANYONE** who may be interested in advertising in/supporting our newsletter please contact me!

As **your** Editor I'm open to suggestions for our newsletter! So please, keep your membership status/information current, get your newsworthy information and/or photographs to me as soon as possible and help me (us) get new advertisers!

Please contact me at **478/318-0471** and/or via e-mail at **gdavismail@gmail.com!**

Sincerely,

Greg (Formerly Known As "Da Baby") Davis ggd ☺

Looking to Save on Drugs? Go Generic

Source: AARP Press Center | April 16, 2009

WASHINGTON - Consumers looking to save in today's tough economy should start by talking to their doctors about their prescription drugs, according to a new report by AARP. The latest AARP **"Rx Watchdog Report"** finds that manufacturer prices for widely used brand name prescription drugs jumped by nearly nine percent in 2008, marking the largest average annual increase in six years and far exceeding the general inflation rate of just 3.8 percent.



"A person taking three brand name prescription drugs could see his or her annual costs climb by more than \$550 in just one year," said AARP Public Policy Director John Rother. *"Switching to generic drugs whenever possible is one of the quickest and easiest ways to drastically reduce your health care bills."*

In contrast, the study by AARP's Public Policy Institute found that the manufacturer prices of widely used generic drugs continued to decrease in 2008, falling by an average of 10.6 percent. The vast majority of generics (83 percent) did not change in price in 2008, despite an increase in general inflation. Many of the generics that did drop in price saw drastic decreases. While the manufacturer price for the brand name antidepressant Zoloft (50 and 100 mg tablets) increased by 12.3 percent in 2008, the manufacturer price for generic sertraline made by Teva Pharmaceuticals decreased by 45.1 percent.

Even for those with prescription drug coverage, switching to generics can mean substantial savings. Cost sharing for generics remains dramatically lower than for many brand name drugs. In 2007, generic drug copayments averaged less than \$8, while average copayments for "preferred" and "non-preferred" brand name drugs were \$19 and \$28 according to a report by Express Scripts.

AARP's report also examined the manufacturer prices of widely used specialty prescription drugs, which treat serious illnesses like cancer, multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis. These drugs had even larger price increases than traditional brand name drugs, rising an average of 9.3 percent in the last year. The average annual increase in the cost of therapy for a specialty drug grew from \$2,297 to \$2,860 between 2007 and 2008. Thirty-one of the widely used specialty drugs were biologic drugs, which are made from living organisms. There currently is no FDA pathway for the approval of less expensive generic versions of biologic drugs, leaving manufacturers free to continue charging the same or even higher prices.

SEE GENERICS >>

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