

Choice

December 2010
Volume 14 - 12
Monthly

The Newsletter Of AARP Chapter 1952

Warner Robins, Georgia
"To Serve - Not To Be Served"

www.Choice1952.com



ggd ☺

Christmas Luncheon - Covered Dish | Musical Entertainment By The Granthams - 12/15/2010 | 11:00 A.M.

Meeting Dates/Time: **Wednesday, December 15th** (11:00 A.M.) and **Wednesday, January 26th** (10:00 A.M.)
Location: Wellston Center - 155 Maple Street | Warner Robins, GA 31093

Officers	Names	Telephone	Board Of Directors	Telephone
President	Trudy Deep	953-3297	Phyllis Blount	956-4134
Vice President	Jeanine Frey	922-5489	Frank Gadbois	953-7788
Secretary	Ivis Bedrick	923-4533	William Hancock	923-7312
Treasurer	John Echols	953-5060	Rosita Huceba	987-7220
Chaplain	** Vacant **		Nancy Harrison	922-1526
Choice Editor/Typist	Greg Davis	318-0471	Harris McMillan	923-8369
			Rosalie Montes	953-7524

Birthdays For December

Nancy Harrison	3 rd	Alexandra Talley	7 th	Betty Lou Lovain	10 th	Becky Kling	16 th
William Hancock	17 th	Ernest Braun	24 th	John Micek	26 th	Jan Rachels	31 st

Birthdays For January

Claude Wright	4 th	Suzanne Burgess	7 th	Bessie Howell	13 th	William Rachelsl	14 th
Jane Gordon	19 th	Rosita Huceba	20 th	Janet Morton	26 th		

WE CARE

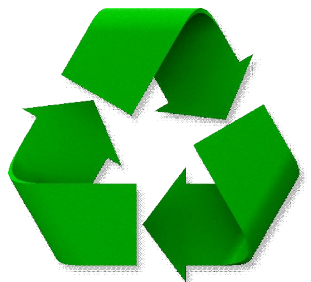
For each new morning with its light, For rest and shelter of the night, For health and food, For love and friends, For everything Thy goodness sends. **Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)** "Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted." **Matthew 5:4 NKJV**



Highlights From November's Meeting:

Franki Hodge - Trip Coordinator/Middle Georgia Memory Makers (MGMM) presented an interesting history of MGMM along with enchanting stories and photographs of local, regional, national and international trips! For additional information contact MGMM at 478/953-0636.

AARP Chapter 1952 Is "**Certifiably GREEN!**" In an effort to REDUCE the "carbon footprint" of our chapter we've not only RECYCLED our 2010 Officers but our Board Of Directors as well! Congratulations to **Frank Gadbois, Rosita Huceba, William Hancock, Nancy Harrison, Harris McMillan, Rosalie Montes and (new to the board) Charles Bell, Janet Morton, John Micek and James Erdmanczyk** ... AARP Chapter 1952's 2011 Board Of Directors! **ggd**



Christmas Wishes:



Two young boys were spending the night at their grandparents. At bedtime, the two boys knelt beside their beds to say their prayers when the youngest one began praying at the top of his lungs. "**I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE ... I PRAY FOR A NEW XBOX ... I PRAY FOR A NEW DVD-PLAYER ...**" His older brother leaned over and nudged the younger brother and said, "Why are you shouting your prayers? God isn't deaf." To which the little brother replied, "**No, but Grandma is!**" **ggd ☺**



Chapter 1952

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Editor's Notes: UPDATE YOUR LOCAL (Chapter 1952) MEMBERSHIP - STILL A "BARGAIN" AT \$5.00/YEAR!

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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 (and keep) new advertisers/sponsors!

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 ☺

Game Change

How the Election Will Affect The Deficit, Taxes And Social Security. Source: AARP Bulletin (December 2010)



Washington's new divided government faces the tall order of reining in spending while creating jobs. Republicans and Tea Party activists, on one side of the divide, and President Obama and his traumatized Democrats on the other now confront a fraught political environment. The next two years pose high-stakes choices. How will the politicians respond to voter demands? Will they work across party lines or will they hunker down for a bruising 2012 campaign? The showdown will occur amid daunting challenges — a brutal economy with one of every 10 Americans out of work, soaring state and federal budget deficits, two expensive wars and an outpouring of budget-cutting proposals produced by three deficit commissions.

Many of the issues on the table are critical to older Americans — the deficit, jobs, taxes, healthcare, Medicare and Social Security. How those issues are addressed will be determined largely by leaders of two increasingly polarized parties. The election moves John Boehner of Ohio into the House speaker's chair, where he will have to integrate into a caucus of traditional Republicans some 80 newcomers who ran promising to upend the political world — and fast. "It's pretty clear the American people want a smaller, less costly and more accountable government," said Boehner.

By any measure, Obama and his Democrats took what he called a "shellacking" on Election Day. Democrats have not suffered such a setback in more than 70 years. As the Tea Party pushes congressional Republicans to the right, the election wipeout of moderate Blue Dog Democrats will push congressional Democrats further to the left, complicating prospects for compromise or collaboration.

Yet that is the course Obama charted after the election. The American people want Washington to "mix and match ideas, figure out those areas where we can agree on, move forward on those, disagree without being disagreeable," he said.

The partisan environment makes that very complicated. "There's a meanness here now. They don't even talk to each other," said Stephen Hess, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. "There doesn't seem to be much support for the middle course," said **John Rother, AARP executive vice president.** Still, he said, he is optimistic Obama and the Republicans will want to reach across the aisle. Republicans have the responsibility of governing now that they have the House majority. "I think the public would have a negative reaction if it were just a consistent 'no' message," Rother said.

Here are several critical issues facing the divided government:

The Deficit And Jobs. Voters said their major concerns were the \$1.3 trillion budget deficit (along with the cumulative \$13.7 trillion national debt) and jobs. Deficit panels, including one created by the president, are offering lawmakers an array of options. The president's deficit commission, led by former senator Alan Simpson and former White House chief of staff Erskine Bowles, pulled no punches with its proposals: Cut defense spending by \$100 billion, gradually raise the Social Security full retirement age from 67 to 69, raise gasoline taxes 15 cents, lower the corporate tax rate to 26 percent, limit deductions for home mortgage interest, cut farm subsidies and trim the federal workforce by 10 percent.

That's a tall order. "We have harpooned every whale in the ocean and some of the minnows," Simpson said. Reaction from politicians and special-interest groups, including AARP, was almost universally critical. With unemployment at almost 10 percent, creating jobs is another priority. But if that means borrowing and spending money — the two voter mandates will be in conflict.

Social Security. Because of its size, its long-term financial challenges and a GOP plan to partially privatize it, Social Security is part of the budget debate. One plan offered by the president's commission proposed raising the retirement age to 68 by 2050 and to 69 by 2075 and gradually reducing benefits. The probable new chairman of the House Budget Committee, Wisconsin Republican Paul Ryan, will be a leading voice for change. He favors private accounts for Social Security, which AARP opposes. According to association Executive Vice President Nancy LeaMond, "Americans, particularly the middle class, are facing declining pensions, lack of savings and rising health care costs, and these unbalanced proposals take the country in the wrong direction instead of answering their real fears."

SEE GAME CHANGE >>

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<< GAME CHANGE (Continued) The issue will no doubt be a central focus. "We'll be under the gun much more than we have been," said **Barbara B. Kennelly, president of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare.**

Health Care. Republicans have targeted "Obamacare," the health care reform that will provide health insurance for more than 30 million people now uninsured by putting new requirements on businesses, insurance companies and individuals. Many of the newly elected Republicans who have vowed to repeal the law will try to curtail funds needed to implement it. Republicans will have difficulty finding the votes to override a presidential veto. But they could try to slow down funding for health care reform or pick off small provisions, said James Thurber, director of the Center for Presidential and Congressional Studies at American University.

Boehner also dispatched a letter to newly elected Republican governors pledging to work with them to slow down implementation of the machinery necessary for the national plan.

Taxes. Bush-era tax cuts, as well as cuts enacted with the 2009 stimulus plan, expire at year's end. The lame-duck Congress is trying to find a compromise to extend the tax breaks. Republicans want all of them to stay in place, while Obama would like to keep the middle-class tax cuts but let cuts expire for the wealthiest Americans.

Now What? The public seems to see divided government as a good thing, said Republican pollster Bill McInturff of Public Opinion Strategies. If fellow Republicans are smart, he said, they will find a few moderate Democrats to work with so they can tell voters they are working across the aisle. And if Republicans do what they promised in the election, such as cutting spending, it could help the GOP brand in the 2012 election, McInturff added. For their part, Democrats still have a majority in the Senate, though the November results may be intimidating for the 23 Democratic senators facing reelection in 2012. And Obama is still president — with the tools, prestige and power that entails. "The Democrats are not going to roll over and play dead," said David Gerger, of the Center for Public Leadership at the Harvard Kennedy School. But, added Stephen Hess, "if they're not willing to do business with each other, all of this is just a prologue to 2012. It's the degree of gridlock the American people are going to have to deal with." **ggd** ☺