

# Choice

The Newsletter Of AARP Chapter 1952

"To Serve – Not To Be Served"

Warner Robins, Georgia

www.Choice1952.com

February, 2007

Volume 11

Issue 2

Issued Monthly

Meeting Dates/Time: Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> | 10:00 A.M.

Location: Wellston Center - 152 Maple Street | Warner Robins, GA 31093

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			Maureen Echols	953-5060

## BIRTHDAYS FOR MARCH ☺

Irene Hughes 2<sup>nd</sup> Lillian Werner 7<sup>th</sup> Miriam Buchmaster 13<sup>th</sup>  
Jean A. Berry 24<sup>th</sup> *Happy Birthday!*

## WE CARE

**Get Well** cards were sent to the following: Virginia Morris, Freda Fairfield, Rosalie Montes, Wymann Hartley, Harris McMillan and Phyllis Blount. We wish everyone a speedy recovery. **Sympathy** cards were sent to the following: **William Roy** – his brother passed away. **Paul Gaudet** – his sister passed away. The family of **DeDe Bush** (long time member and greeter at our meetings) – who recently passed away. ☺ We pray everyone finds strength and comfort in their respective loss. "Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4

## Note From The President

By the time you get this newsletter, we will be nearing the time to go to the Capitol to meet and talk to some of our Senators and Representatives. I hope that you are one of those who signed up to go. Remember the bus will be at the Wellston Center at **7:00 A.M. on the 27<sup>th</sup>** and will be leaving at **7:30 A.M.** I anticipate that we will be back around **3:30 P.M.**

John Echols

**Attention All Members:** Don't forget to pay your membership dues for 2007 - \$5.00 each! Also make sure to keep your records updated with any changes!

## AARP Defensive Driving Classes

**Day Classes:** Contact Lynn Partillo at 478/971-4473. **Evening Classes:** Contact Lamar Odom at 478/788-5121.

## AARP Tax Aide (February 1 – April 15, 2007)

Contact: 478/929-6960

## **AARP Georgia Launches "No Free Lunch" Investor Protection Campaign**

**February's program** will feature **Mr. Paul Melton** from AARP Georgia's **Investor Protection Trust**. Many seniors receive solicitations to attend a free lunch or dinner and hear pitches on how to increase their retirement financial security through so called "special investment" opportunities. No matter who offers that "great" investment deal, there are steps consumers should take first.

In order to educate its members and the public about personal financial pitfalls that could stem from these solicitations,

AARP Georgia is collaborating with the securities division of the Georgia Office of the Secretary of State to provide "No Free Lunch" public education programs. The programs – which are free – will provide tips and warning signs for common frauds, how to avoid financial fraud and abusive practices, and where to report suspected scams.

Although this program is sponsored by AARP and is designed primarily for seniors, this program is available for (and applicable to) all age groups. Mr. Melton can be contacted at **478/750-9731**.

Don't forget ... **Daylight Savings Time** is **March 11<sup>th</sup>**! ☺

## Editor's Notes

### Happy (Belated) Valentine's Day!

I hope everyone remembered to get something special for their "sweetheart." If you didn't (shame on you)! Although February is "practically" over there's still time for you (men) to get out of the "doghouse!" Ladies ... you're not out of the "kitchen" yet! To stay out of the "doghouse" or "kitchen" **ALWAYS** ...

See Page **50** For Conclusion ☺

**NEW!** The *Choice* Newsletter is online! Please visit [www.Choice1952.com](http://www.Choice1952.com) where you can download newsletters beginning with the January 2007 issue!

Please get your newsworthy information to me as soon as possible!

Yes, I'm **the** Editor but I'm also **your** Editor! I'm open to suggestions and look forward to sharing topics to inform, inspire, educate, encourage and empower you! I can be reached at **478/318-0471** and/or via e-mail at [gdavismail@gmail.com](mailto:gdavismail@gmail.com)! ☺

Sincerely,

*Greg Davis (ggd)*

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### Choice Alert

Recently an 84-year-old Perry woman fell victim to a **Medicare** scam in which the culprits were apparently trying to steal her identity, police said. Unfortunately, the scammers made off with the woman's Social Security number and her signature. ☹

That incident underscores the need to let everyone know about these and other scams targeted at our senior citizens. Here's how this scam works:

The resident will receive a phone call from a person who claims to be a representative of **Medicare**. The caller would state that they would send a "*field representative*" to the resident's home to discuss **Medicare's "A" and "B" plans**.

Usually two people will visit the resident's home and identify themselves as "Medicare representatives." They would then ask to see the resident's **Medicare** card (the card has the person's **Social Security** number on it). They would also ask the resident to sign some papers to "**verify their visit.**"

The scam appears to be designed to steal a person's identity (social security number). **NOTE: Medicare does not call consumers for such information nor does it send representatives to people's homes.**

If you – or someone you know – are a victim of this or similar scams please call 911 or your local law enforcement agency. Also file a police report which may offer a victim some measure of protection for identity theft restoration.

**Online: [www.Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov) or Toll-Free: 877/772-3379.** ggd

### Light Humor

A 60-year-old man went to the doctor for a check-up. The doctor told him, "You're in terrific shape. There's nothing wrong with you. Why, you might live forever. You have the body of a 35 year old. By the way, how old was your father when he died?"

The 60 year old responded, "Who said he was dead?"

The doctor was surprised and asked, "How old is he and is he very active?"

The 60 year old responded, "Well, he is 82 years old and he still goes skiing three times a season and surfing three times a week during the summer."

The doctor couldn't believe it. "Well, how old was your grandfather when he died?"

The 60 year old responded again, "Who said he was dead?"

The doctor was astonished. He said, "You mean to tell me you are 60 years old and both your father and your grandfather are alive? Is your grandfather very active?"

The 60 year old said, "He goes skiing at least once a season and surfing once a week during the summer. Not only that," said the patient, "my grandfather is 106 years old, and next week he is getting married again."

The doctor said, "At 106 years old, why on earth would your grandfather **want to get married?**"

His patient looked up at the doctor and said, "Who said he **wanted** to get married?" ☺ ggd

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**Saint Patrick's Day** is celebrated worldwide by Irish people and increasingly by many of non-Irish descent. Celebrations are generally themed around all things green and Irish; both Christians and non-Christians celebrate the secular version of the holiday by wearing green, eating Irish food, imbibing Irish drink, and attending parades. The St. Patrick's Day parade in Dublin, Ireland is part of a five day festival, with over 500,000 people attending the 2006 parade. The largest St. Patrick's Day parade is held in New York City and it is watched by 2 million spectators. The St. Patrick's Day parade was first held in New York City on 17 March 1766 when Irish soldiers marched through the city. Ireland's cities all hold their own parades and festivals.

As well as being a celebration of Irish culture, Saint Patrick's Day is a Christian festival celebrated in the Catholic Church, the Church of Ireland (among other churches in the Anglican Communion) and some other denominations. The day always falls in the season of Lent. In church calendars (though rarely in secular ones) Saint Patrick's Day is moved to the following Monday when it falls on a Sunday. It is traditional for those observing a Lenten fast to break it for the duration of Saint Patrick's Day whenever March 17 falls on a Friday.

The person who was to become **Saint Patrick**, the patron saint of Ireland, was born in Wales about AD 385. His given name was **Maewyn**, and he almost didn't get the job of bishop of Ireland because he lacked the required scholarship. Far from being a saint, until he was 16, he considered himself a pagan. At that age, he was sold into slavery by a group of Irish marauders that raided his village. During his captivity, he became closer to God. He escaped from slavery after six years and went to Gaul where he studied in the monastery under St. Germain, bishop of Auxerre for a period of twelve years. During his training he became aware that his calling was to convert the pagans to Christianity.

His wishes were to return to Ireland, to convert the native pagans to Christianity. But his superiors instead appointed St. Palladius. But two years later, Palladius transferred to

Scotland. Patrick, having adopted that Christian name earlier, was then appointed as second bishop to Ireland.

Patrick was quite successful at winning converts. And this fact upset the Celtic Druids. Patrick was arrested several times, but escaped each time. He traveled throughout Ireland, establishing monasteries across the country. He also set up schools and churches which would aid him in his conversion of the Irish country to Christianity. His mission in Ireland lasted for thirty years. After that time, Patrick retired to County Down. He died on March 17 in AD 461. That day has been commemorated as St. Patrick's Day ever since.

Much Irish folklore surrounds St. Patrick's Day. Not much of it is actually substantiated. Some of this lore includes the belief that Patrick raised people from the dead. He also is said to have given a sermon from a hilltop that drove all the snakes from Ireland. Of course, no snakes were ever native to Ireland, and some people think this is a metaphor for the conversion of the pagans. Though originally a Catholic holy day, St. Patrick's Day has evolved into more of a secular holiday.

One traditional icon of the day is the shamrock. And this stems from a more bona fide Irish tale that tells how Patrick used the three-leafed shamrock to explain the Trinity. He used it in his sermons to represent how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit could all exist as separate elements of the same entity. His followers adopted the custom of wearing a shamrock on his feast day.

The St. Patrick's Day custom came to America in 1737. That was the first year St. Patrick's Day was publicly celebrated in this country, in Boston. Today, people celebrate the day with parades, wearing of the green, and drinking beer. One reason St. Patrick's Day might have become so popular is that it takes place just a few days before the first day of spring. One might say it has become the first green of spring. ☺ ggd

# AARP Chapter 1952

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Meeting Dates/Time: Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> | 10: A.M.  
Location: Wellston Center - 152 Maple Street | Warner Robins, GA 31093



## Did You Know?

Local AARP Chapters demonstrate the power of volunteer service to help address key issues in their community!

The first AARP Chapters were organized in 1960. By 1961, over 100 chapters were organized. Today, there are over 2,400 AARP Chapters across the U.S., Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. At AARP, we call it ***the power to make it better.***

Locally, AARP Chapters offer a face - and heart - for AARP! As a strategic link between members, communities and AARP programs and services, local AARP chapters bring members a variety

of community service, education, leadership and fellowship opportunities.

AARP Chapters are well positioned to provide direct support for AARP State Office goals and also combine forces with groups like *Habitat for Humanity* and *Meals on Wheels* to make life better in communities where members live and work.

Our Chapter (**1952**) has many exciting programs and events! Join us ... you'll see! ☺ ggd