



Latah County Chapter Newsletter

Latah County Chapter #678

December 2006

AARP Meeting
University Inn Best Western
Friday
December 8, 2006
11:30 a.m.

Meal
Pot Roast
Served with Carrots & Potatoes
Mixed Green Salad with Ranch Dressing
Rolls & Butter
Apple Crisp
Price: \$8.50

Christmas Music Program

Good conversation and lots of music will add to our holiday cheer. Our Christmas music will be provided by the approximately 70 students who make up the Lena Whitmore First Grade Chorus and they will be under the direction of music instructor Mary Berthiaume.

Local AARP Tax Aide Starts February 1st

It will soon be income tax time again and volunteers will be on hand to help seniors file their income taxes. If you need help or know someone that needs help, please take advantage of this excellent AARP service program.

Paul Hedler is the local coordinator for the Tax-Aide program. Call him at 882-2016 if you have any questions about the service.

The program office will be on the second floor of the Federal Building (Post Office) and will be open every Wednesday and Friday from 1 to 4 p.m. beginning February 1st and ending on April 13th. Computers will be used and clients can e-file their tax returns through the Internet.

With the help of volunteers, the AARP Tax-Aide program provides free tax counseling and preparation services to millions of low

and middle income taxpayers, with special attention to those over 60 years of age. This AARP program is the nation's largest free volunteer-run tax counseling and preparation service.

Have Experience in Tax Preparation?

Paul Hedler, local coordinator for AARP's Tax Aide program is looking for volunteers. A short training program is provided. If you are interested please give Paul a call at 882-2016.

AARP Safe Driving Classes

AARP Safe Driving Classes are scheduled for the rest of the winter and spring. The cost is \$10. Dick Bull, Bill Parish, Elaine Broyles and Laura Miller are the instructors for the classes. Please contact them if you have questions. Classes are limited to 25 persons so pre-registration is encouraged. Idaho insurance companies are required by law to provide discounts on auto insurance premiums to class graduates over the age of 55. This new law was passed during the last legislative session.

Safe Driving Class Schedule

February 17 th	8:30am to 4:30pm
March 21 st and 22 nd	8:30am to 12:30pm
April 18 th and 19 th	8:30am to 12:30pm
May 19 th	8:30am to 4:30 pm
June 20 th and 21 st	8:30am to 12:30pm
Sept 19 th and 20 th	8:30am to 12:30pm
October 17 th and 18 th	8:30am to 12:30pm
Nov 14 th and 15 th	8:30am to 12:30pm

Remember! – you must attend both sessions or a Saturday all day session
A Total of 8 Hours!

All of the class sessions are held in the Gritman Memorial Hospital Conference Room. Gritman is a co-sponsor for the AARP Safe-Driving Classes, providing space, equipment, and refreshments.

Chapter Annual Meeting January 19th

The Latah County Chapter of AARP will hold its Annual Meeting on Friday, January 19, 2007. Mark your calendar now!

Please plan to attend this important meeting. It is your chance to vote in the annual election of chapter officers and members of the chapter's Executive Board of Directors.

The program for the meeting will also include a presentation by Steve Bonnar, Executive Director of Sojourner's Alliance.

Treasurer's Report

Chapter Treasurer Hugh Homan reported the current checking account balance for the chapter is \$565.13. The Board of Directors has decided to leave dues at the same level for the coming year.

2007 Chapter Dues

AARP Chapter dues are *now due and payable*. For those who have not paid their dues for 2007, please do so by sending \$4 per person to:

Hugh Homan

310 New Meadow Rd, Troy, ID 83871

Or save the postage and pay him at the luncheon meeting. Bring your checkbook!

2006 Chapter Bylaws Revisions

The national AARP Board of Directors approved a number of changes in local Chapter Bylaws this year. Many of the changes are cosmetic in nature or reflect changes in the way we communicate with each other. *The changes clarify the chapter's relationship to AARP, reinforces the chapter's primary goals of community service, limits the size of chapter boards, reduces the number of leadership positions that must be filled, gives the chapters more options in setting term limits, and eliminates a lot of arcane language.*

Older Americans Act Reauthorized

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of AARP grassroots activists, Congress passed the 16th reauthorization of the Older Americans Act.

This was a top priority for AARP and the agreement contains provisions that will improve critical services for older

Americans, such as family care-giver assistance, Meals-on-Wheels, elder abuse prevention, legal services, and job training for low-income older workers.

Affordable Prescription Drugs

Although we applaud Wal-Mart and Rite-Aide in their efforts to make some generic drugs more affordable, AARP is campaigning for legislative changes to make prescription drugs affordable. AARP believes that the Dorgan-Snowe bill (S.334) is a comprehensive solution to this problem in allowing prescription drug importation from Canada and establishing important safety regulations. Learn more about this and other issues by reading:

AARP's "Rx Watchdog Report" at www.aarp.org/watchdog

Medicare Part D: The Sequel

Millions of us have made an effort to understand the Part D prescription drug benefit and choose a plan. Now it begins all over again. The annual open enrollment period ends December 31st. Most plans will change their costs and benefits in 2007, so it is important to compare your present plan with others in your area, and to be sure and choose the one that best meets your needs. AARP has provided lots of helpful information on its website and in its newsletters. Take advantage of their expertise and experience in unraveling Part D coverage by reading the November issue of the *AARP Bulletin*.

The AARP Newsletter is published by
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