



Meeting Dates and Times

Jun 4 at 2-3:30PM – BOARD Meeting at BGC
Jun 11 at 4-5:30PM – General Meeting at BGC
Jul 2 at 2-3:30PM – BOARD Meeting at BGC
Jul 9 at 4-5:30PM – General Meeting at BGC
August OFF
Sep 3 at 2-3:30PM – BOARD Meeting at BGC
Sep 10 at 4-5:30PM – General Meeting at BGC
Oct 1 at 2-3:30PM – BOARD Meeting at BGC
Oct 8 at 4-5:30PM – General Meeting at BGC
Nov 5 at 2-3:30PM – BOARD Meeting at BGC
Nov 12 at 4-5:30PM – General Meeting at BGC
Dec 3 at 2-3:30PM – BOARD Meeting at BGC
Dec 10 at 4-5:30PM – General Meeting at BGC
***See Chat and Chew section for date/details.**



General Meeting

On June 11 at 5 PM at the BGC, Karen Kalla will talk about the State AARP Advocacy Team and the great work they do for us in Annapolis. Dinner will be from Woodside Deli. Please contact Claudette Lease at (claudette1944@hotmail.com) to reserve a dinner. The cost is \$15.



Chat and Chew

On June 18, chat and chew will be at Il Porto 1 PM (245 Muddy Branch Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20878). Please contact Nancy Dols (nancydols17@gmail.com) to let her know you are coming.



Food drive starts June 1

Dear Chapter members. Our chapter is partnering with the Benjamin Gaither Center for a food drive to benefit The Gaithersburg Cares Hub. We will start collecting items June 1 and end June 15. There will be a collection box at the center, near the entrance.

The Hub particularly needs:

Cereal, Pancake mix, Pancake Syrup, Dried black and pinto beans. cereal, canned corn, and canned fruit. They also are asking for laundry detergent.

As you are shopping, please keep the collection in mind and if you can help our neighbors, add a few items. Thank you.

Our former Vice President, Gail Gomila, passed away

With a heavy heart, here is a message from Gail's daughter: It is with great sadness that we write to tell you that our beloved mother, Gail Gomila, passed away peacefully on May 13th at her home in Maryland.



A funeral service and burial were held in Mom's hometown of New Orleans on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 and she was laid to rest in the family crypt there. If you wish, you may view her obituary and tribute page as well as a recording of the service which took place at Jacob Schoen & Son, 3827 Canal Street in New Orleans:
<https://www.schoenhfh.com/tributes/Gail-Gomila>.

Advocacy Update

Governor Moore signed SB 1 into law. Here's a message from the state AARP Director:

Gov. Moore signed SB1 on May 9. What a remarkable achievement for AARP Maryland, thanks to Laurel and Tammy's leadership and everyone involved including email alerts from our advocates to the General Assembly throughout the session and the recent ones directed to the governor that resulted in over 1500 messages by AARP advocates, communications efforts, delivering individual notes to legislators, and much more.

Continued

The victory is especially sweet when you recall the tremendous industry lobbying in opposition this year, including misinformation letters to the press and to customers, encircling the state house with industry trucks, industry employees pursuing legislators (as they have a right to do), a senator who originally met with AARP and expressed support at the beginning of the session who then became the floor leader *in opposition* to the measure on the last day of the session, and, after passage by the legislature a continued misinformation campaign by the industry to derail the measure, calling for the governor to veto the bill. An article in the Baltimore Banner that lists the top 10 spenders on lobbying in Annapolis this session had Constellation at #1, which accounts for the 29 lobbyists they hired to defeat SB1.

Have no doubt that thousands of energy consumers will no longer be subjected to the bait and switch schemes of the third party supplier industry in Maryland. One of my favorite moments at the House hearing is when sponsor Delegate Brian Crosby asked the industry panel why someone would find benefit in paying 28 cents per Kilowatt Hour for electricity rather than the standard charge of about 10 cents per Kilowatt Hour, and one of the industry panelists clarified that 28 cents was the *AVERAGE!* Of course, Del Crosby responded saying that makes matters worse, that some customers were paying much more than 28 cents if that was the average... The industry panelists were flummoxed.

This achievement took years to realize. My thanks to Laurel Peltier and Martha and Ed Yalow for educating us about the industry practices back in 2018, and the steadfast work that has gone on ever since. Whether it was about STRIDE or other matters related to the cost of electricity, AARP Maryland stayed with the issues and developed a strategic campaign to address the deceptive practices and other problems that have had adverse impacts on many people of all ages. As our founder said, “what we do we do for all.”



Trip to Paris and the Heart of Normandy

We are continuing to plan our trip to France and the Heart of Normandy in the spring of 2025. The cost is

approximately \$5100. If you would like more information, please contact Nancy Dols at nancydols17@gmail.com.



Service Projects

We will plan our school supply project in June. We will collect supplies in July and deliver them in August. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Mary Hoferek at mary.hoferek@gmail.com.



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[AARP Chapter #5358 Gaithersburg 2016](#)



This Month's Birthdays

Let's celebrate & wish the following a happy birthday!

- Jenny Ricketts – Jun 5
- Doris Kingsbury – Jun 14
- Susan Baldrige – Jun 23
- Allen Beach – Jun 25
- Mariann Carmody – Jun 26