



December 2025



Old Bridge Chapter Bus Trip to Mackinac Island, Michigan

Welcome to the Third Installment of the AARP New Jersey Chapter Newsletter!

Dear Chapter Leaders,

Happy holiday's from AARP NJ! It's hard to believe another year is coming to a close.

As we step into a new year together, I want to express my gratitude for all you've done to strengthen your communities. Every story in this newsletter reflects the care, commitment, and impact you've made. To make sure this newsletter is on the right track, I encourage you to [complete this feedback survey](#).

I wish you a wonderful holiday season, and I look forward to seeing all that will be accomplished in 2026!

And remember:

- Feel free to share this newsletter with your members, whether by summarizing key points at your next meeting, emailing it out, or printing copies for distribution.
- Questions or ideas? Email me!

With appreciation,
Fabiana
AARP New Jersey

Fabiana LoPiccolo - Stewart

This newsletter features content from:

Belleville 2051

Edison 3446

Kingsland-Lyndhurst 4866

Mid-Atlantic County 4191

Newark 5398

North Brunswick 3885

Old Bridge 4854

Pleasantville 5317

West Essex 131

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS



REQUEST A FREE SPEAKER!

Are you looking for free and educational speakers? Then look no further than the [AARP NJ Speakers Bureau!](#) The Pleasantville Chapter recently hosted a session titled "Fraud Watch Network: The Scam Landscape" with almost 40 attendees! At the end of the speech, Mrs. Flowers Peacock, the presenter and Speakers Bureau volunteer, was presented with an appreciation certificate. Interested in requesting a speaker? [Check out this link!](#)

MEMBER RECRUITMENT TRICKS

West Essex Chapter 131 hosted a lively Fall Open House in partnership with Clara Maass Hospital's Community Outreach team. The event embraced the theme "Join the Adventure: Connect, Engage, and Thrive," offering attendees a chance to learn about the Chapter's mission and engage in fun activities like health screenings, giveaways, and line dancing. The Chapter was thrilled that five attendees joined as new members, reflecting growing enthusiasm for the Chapter's work to empower older adults in the community.



ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS

The Newark Chapter welcomed Ms. Krystal Allen-Whitten, Co-Founder of Eyes Like Mine (ELM), for a presentation on empowering individuals who are blind or visually impaired. ELM promotes inclusion through community service, empowerment workshops, and innovative events like Dancing with the Blind and the Miss Blind Diva Empowerment Pageant. The session included heartfelt stories from attendees, making it a powerful event on the importance of advocacy and awareness in our communities.

BRING GOYA TO YOUR CHAPTER



The Edison Chapter enjoyed an engaging program with Goya Foods, the largest Hispanic food company in the U.S. Nutritionist MeriTerese Racanelli introduced Goya's "My Plate Better" low-sodium product line and explained the health risks of excess sodium, especially for seniors. Her team prepared sample dishes, provided over 150 gift bags with products and recipes, and donated 200 lbs. of food to local pantries, all at no cost to the Chapter. MeriTerese is eager to bring it to other Chapters! Interested in a session? Contact her at meriterese.racanelli@goya.com

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS



50 YEARS OF SERVICE!

AARP Chapter 2051 proudly marked its 50th anniversary of serving the community with a special recognition from the Mayor of Belleville, who congratulated the Chapter on this incredible milestone and even became an honorary member! Over the years, Chapter 2051 has made a lasting impact through initiatives like school supply drives, Halloween costume donations, and countless other efforts that enrich the lives of older adults and strengthen the community.

MAKING MEMORIES AND LASTING IMPACT

Old Bridge Chapter members have been busy creating memorable experiences and giving back to the community! From hosting bingo at the local Reformed Church Home and making monthly donations to the Old Bridge Food Bank, to enjoying exciting adventures like a bus trip to Mackinac Island, Michigan, and a scenic River Queen boat ride up the Manasquan, there's always something happening. The Chapter also kicked off the season with a festive "Welcome Back" September celebration after their summer break, followed by a lively Oktoberfest celebration.



The Kingsland-Lyndhurst Chapter recently returned from an exciting trip to Wheeling, West Virginia, where members enjoyed the Festival of Lights, toured Independence Hall, explored the Glass and Toy Museums, visited The Good Zoo, and attended a festive holiday show. Back home, the Chapter is making an impact through sponsoring a local family with a Giving Tree and a ShopRite gift card for Thanksgiving, and donating school supplies and backpacks for children, plus t-shirts and socks for veterans and a homeless shelter. And at the annual holiday luncheon, donations of cat and dog food will support the local humane society, rounding out a wonderful season of giving.

MAKING AN IMPACT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



LEVERAGING SOCIAL MEDIA

The North Brunswick Chapter is excited to have started their first Facebook group! Their aim is to not only let their members know what's happening with their Chapter, but to also allow members to interact with one another, as well as to attract new members. "People of all ages are on Facebook, so it only made sense to make our presence known," said Mark J. Schmidt, President of the Chapter. If you would like to see their page, head to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/aarpnorthbrunswick>





Edison Chapter presentation by Goya Foods

News You Can Use From AARP NJ

- Are you looking for new and exciting ways to give back to your community? **The AARP NJ Speakers Bureau is looking for passionate volunteers** to help educate and empower older adults statewide. As a Speakers Bureau volunteer, you will:
 - Deliver engaging presentations on key topics
 - Promote AARP's mission and resources in your community
 - Serve as an ambassador for AARP
 - Build relationships with host organizations
 - Commit to at least two presentations per yearReady to inspire and inform? [Apply now to join the Speakers Bureau.](#)
- **The AARP Driver Safety Team wants to make YOUR Chapter members safer drivers!** Members can join a 6 hour course, taught in one or two sessions, costing only \$20 per member. Benefits include a discount on car insurance for 3 years, and New Jersey will take 2 points off your NJ drivers license. For more information, contact Barbara Parkoff (bparkoff24@gmail.com ; 732-314-1565)

Thank you for reading!