

Quarterly Chapter Newsletter



June 2026



Kingsland-Lyndhurst Chapter at Longwood Gardens in PA

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

Dear Chapter Leaders,

I had the pleasure of seeing many of you last week at the Regional Chapter President Lunches!

These sessions were full of lively discussion, bringing together North, Central, and South Jersey Chapter leaders to network, share best practices, and explore opportunities for collaboration. My favorite part was hearing your positive feedback and your enthusiasm for staying connected with fellow leaders. I look forward to seeing you again and hope to welcome some new faces next time!

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:**

Bellville

Edison

**Kingsland-
Lyndhurst**

Newark

Old Bridge

Pleasantville

West Essex

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

CELEBRATING OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

The Newark Chapter celebrated Older Americans Month with guest speakers Crystal McDonald, Advocacy Associate Director at AARP NJ, and Essex County Commission Vice President A'Dorian Murray-Thomas. They shared tips on staying safe during summer power outages and heat waves, and provided an overview of proposed legislation aimed at lowering utility costs and expanding clean energy.



CAREGIVER SUPPORTS

The Pleasantville Chapter hosted a meeting featuring guest speakers Patricia Tweedle and Sandy Lyles-Mims of Connecting The Dots, Inc. The discussion focused on supporting caregivers, highlighting the importance of recognizing their dedication and impact.

KINDERGARTEN KINDNESS

The Kingsland-Lyndhurst Chapter launched a reading group, with members visiting local elementary schools to read to younger students. This intergenerational initiative not only supports early literacy but also serves as a wonderful model of community engagement for other Chapters.



“STILL SHINING” RECOGNITION EVENT

The West Essex Chapter hosted its “Still Shining” Volunteer Appreciation Event, celebrating volunteers and honoring members aged 90+ for their extraordinary lives and lasting impact. The event, attended by Montclair Mayor Dr. Renee Baskerville, recognized four remarkable honorees who were celebrated with flowers, certificates, and commemorative star pins. The event highlighted the enduring contributions of older adults and the importance of intergenerational respect, and the story was also picked up by the Montclair Local newspaper!

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS



TRIPS GALORE!

The Old Bridge Chapter has been busy enjoying a variety of outings and events! From catching Cabaret at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse to dining at Li Greci's Staaten and seeing 1776 at Philadelphia's Walnut Street Theatre, they've been out and about making the most of every moment.

STRENGTHENING FRIENDSHIPS THROUGH TRAVEL

As the season wraps up, the Edison Chapter has been strengthening friendships through travel alongside its meetings and programs. Members enjoyed a trip to Lancaster's Sight & Sound Theatre to see Joshua, and from May 26–29, traveled to Ocean City, MD, with visits to Assateague Island, a winery, outlets, and more. In June, the Chapter will conclude its trips with West Side Story at Paper Mill Playhouse and lunch at Sophia's. All trips are open to AARP NJ Chapters—learn more at edisonaarp.org.



THE PROM KING AND QUEEN

Members of the Belleville Chapter attended the Belleville Senior Prom in May, enjoying an evening of dinner, dancing, and great company. Hosted annually by the Mayor and the Department of Recreation, the event featured a catered buffet, live music, and complimentary styling by the Belleville High School Cosmetology Department.





Old Bridge Chapter at a showing of "1776" in Philadelphia

News You Can Use From AARP NJ

- AARP state offices are now accepting nominations for the **AARP Andrus Award for Community Service**. As our most prestigious volunteer honor, this award recognizes individuals age 50+ who are using their experiences, talents, and skills to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. Submit your nomination [HERE](#) by July 31, 2026.
- AARP NJ has partnered with the Rutgers Mason Gross School of the Arts to commission 10 painted portraits honoring New Jersey caregivers. The portraits will be unveiled in November at the NJ League of Municipalities Conference, elevating caregiver awareness among state leaders. Caregivers are invited to apply to have their portrait painted by June 30, 2026 at aarp.org/CaregivingStoryAARPNJ. Apply today!

Thank you for reading!



@AARPNJ



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TEMPLATE



The East Brunswick Chapter is proud to continue their annual awards program. The Community Service Award went to Tesia Yachimovicz, a student leader deeply involved in service, academics, and civic engagement. The Anne Stevens Memorial Award went to Shukreeah S. DeLaCruz, a nursing student and single mother whose experience caring for her son inspired her to become a nurse.

HAVE YOU TRIED THIS APPROACH?

The Elizabeth Chapter hosts two fraud prevention tables each year. While sharing valuable information on how to avoid scams, they also use these events as an opportunity to recruit new members. There's no better place to grow your Chapter than right in your own community!

Has your chapter tried this approach? If not, consider trying at your next public event!



The Belleville Chapter recently awarded a \$500 scholarship to a Belleville High School graduate! They are also in the midst of planning a program on Fraud and Scams to be presented by the Belleville Police Department.

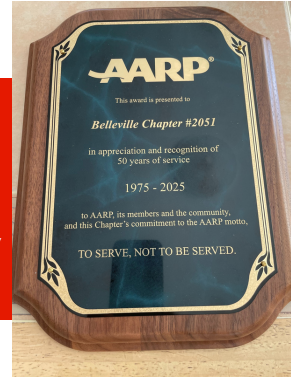
Does your Chapter give scholarships? Have you considered partnering with local police? If not, this is your sign to try!



CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

50 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE BOOKS

The Bellville Chapter was honored with a beautiful plaque in recognition of 50 years of service (1975–2025) to AARP, its members, and the Bellville community. The plaque and accompanying letter were sent by Dr. Myechia Minter-Jordan, CEO of AARP, Washington, D.C.



HONORING MEMBERS



The East Brunswick Chapter honored one of its most dedicated members, Ann Stewart, for over 20 years of service on the Board of Directors and for her role in the Chapters reception activities. The celebration also marked the special milestone of Ann's 100th birthday! She was presented with a framed certificate, cake, and flowers, and was joined by her son and daughter-in-law for the occasion.



AARP ANDRUS AWARD

Livingston proudly nominated Frank Petrucci for the AARP Andrus

Award for Community Service. For over 20 years, Frank has served as the volunteer pianist for the Livingstones, using music to uplift and connect with older adults.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



The Pleasantville Chapter joined the city's National Night Out on August 5, serving refreshments to the community and hosting an AARP information and membership table. It was a pleasant and rewarding experience for all involved, and the Chapter is already looking forward to participating again next year!

NEW PRESIDENT IN TOWN!

Big things are happening at the North Brunswick Chapter, starting with the installation of their new President, Mark J. Schmidt! As the Chapter approaches its 40th anniversary next May, Mark is focused on helping to grow the membership, add value for members, and serve the community. Schmidt said "There's no greater feeling in the world than giving back, and we're working on new ways for our Chapter to do just that." He plans to introduce fun events, engaging trips, and boost the Chapter's presence through social media.

