

History Tidbits

Ocean City AARP Chapter 1917 - April 1,2014

“History never looks like history when you are living through it”-Gardner

In **1974**, the chapter was formed, with Charles Heineman as the first President. At that time, the chapter was called the “Worcester County Chapter 1917”. The charter was granted with the minimum number of members required, forty.

Chapter Dinner Dances have been held in many years. John Sauer was the Committee Chair in **1989, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1995, and 1999**. **Frank Hoover** was the Committee Chair in **1993**. Paul Stewart was the Committee Chair in **1996** and **1997**. Annette Altvater was the Committee Chair in **1998**. Sandy Kvech was the Committee Chair in **2014**.

In **1988**, some of our members assisted in the formation of Chapter 4507 in Ocean Pines.

In **1989**, the 15th Anniversary Dinner Dance was held on November 7th. John Rogers was the Chapter President.

In **1989**, the chapter had over 600 members.

In the years up to **1989**, the chapter awarded annual scholarships of one hundred dollars each to two deserving students at Stephen Decatur HS. By the year **2013**, the award had changed to one scholarship of one thousand dollars.

In **1991**, our chapter donated the flagpole in front of the Senior Center in Ocean City.

In **1993**, when Frank Hoover was the organizer of the “annual” Dinner Dance, he had a heart attack the day before the dance. His wife, Sunny Hoover, had to oversee both the Dance and his illness at the same time.

In **1994**, the 20th Anniversary Dinner Dance was held on November 14th at the Sheraton (Clarion now). Bill McCarthy was the Chapter President.

In **1994**, the chapter had over 1000 members.

At the **1995** Annual Health Fair organized by our chapter, health screenings were provided for more than 1100 attendees.

In **1999**, the 25th Anniversary Dinner Dance was held on November 3rd at the Sheraton (Clarion now). Libby Hedges was the Chapter President. Mayor **Jim Mathias** gave the invocation.

In **1999**, the chapter had over 1000 members.

In March, **2008**, Worcester County Commissioner Louise Gulyas was the guest speaker at the membership meeting. A collection was taken for Diakonia and \$205 was raised.

In December, **2008**, the 2009 officers and newly-elected directors of our chapter were sworn in during the holiday luncheon at the Clarion. The group included Nancy Howard, President; Jim Watts, Vice President; Bill Shoop, Treasurer, Jack Uram, Tour Treasurer; Sue Harting, Recording Secretary; Ray Jackson, director; Gerty Apple, Corresponding Secretary, and Dubby Eby, director.

During **2011**, and for several years before, our Membership Meetings were held at Northside Park, in the Community Room of the complex's main building.

At the end of **2011**, the chapter had about 180 members.

In **2012**, all of our Membership Meetings were held at the Elks Lodge at 138th street.

In February, **2012**, our website (www.aarp1917.org) was launched. Garry Fox was the first webmaster.

In **2012**, we officially changed the name of the chapter to "Ocean City AARP Chapter 1917".

At the end of **2012**, the chapter had about 211 members.

In **2013**, all of our Membership Meetings were held at the Knights of Columbus Hall at 99th Street.

On May 9th, **2013**, a Certificate of Appreciation was presented to State Senator **Jim Mathias** for his presentation at the membership meeting. Senator Mathias gave a detailed presentation on “How 50+ Marylanders Fared in the 2013 Maryland General Assembly”.

On December 12th, **2013**, **Frank and Sunny Hoover** were recognized at our Holiday Party/Meeting for their 30 years of service to our chapter. Frank still serves on the Board of Directors.

At the end of **2013**, the chapter had about 225 members

In January, **2014**, we started having our membership meetings at the Ocean City Senior Center, 41st Street, adjacent to the Convention Center.

On May 6th, **2014**, the Chapter will co-sponsor the 28th Annual Health Fair at the Ocean City Roland E. Powell Convention Center. Dr. Melvin Friedman is the event Committee Chair; 2014 is the eight consecutive year that he has served as the primary event organizer.

On November 13th, **2014**, the 40th Anniversary Dinner Celebration will be held on November 14th at the Captain’s Table at the Marriott. Chris Norris is the Chapter President.