



**ALIEF AARP CHAPTER #3264**  
**AARP chapters are separately incorporated affiliates of AARP.**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**MAY 2026**



### **President's Message**



May has brought warm weather with some spots of cooler breaks.

Our May speaker is a pianist so our meeting will be in the **Sanctuary** this month. No food is allowed in the room, but we will have small bottles of water for everyone. We will also have no raffle this month.

I am also happy to be working with such a competent and delightful Board. They have come up with many innovative ideas and are engaged in the work of the Travel Committee and Programs.

**Best Wishes to all,**  
*Linda Edwards*

**Make sure to visit our new website:** [www.aliefaarp3264.org](http://www.aliefaarp3264.org)

### **May Dates to Remember**

May 1	May Day
May 5	Cinco de Mayo
May 10	Mother's Day
May 14	Ascension Day (Christian Observance)
May 16	Armed Forces Day
May 23	Memorial Day
May 24	Pentecost (Christian Observance)
May 27-28	Shavuot (Jewish Holiday)
May 31	Eid al-Adha (Islamic holiday, date subject to moon sighting)

## AARP LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FOR MAY 2026

BY AUSTRAL RUNNELS

**ELECTION MADNESS!! CONTINUED.** Here is a friendly reminder. Of course, by the time of our next meetings some of these elections will be completed.

### Important Election Dates 2025-2026

(Information collected from the Texas Secretary of State Website.)

EVENT	DATE	STATUS
UNIFORM ELECTION DATE (LIMITED)	Saturday, May 2, 2026	COMPLETED
PRIMARY RUNOFF ELECTION	Saturday, May 16, 2026	PENDING
PRIMARY RUNOFF ELECTION	Tuesday, May 26, 2026	PENDING
UNIFORM ELECTION DATE	Tuesday, November 3, 2026	PENDING

**PROPERTY TAXES.** You may have noticed an influx of commercials for companies who are offering to represent you in lowering your property taxes. Please do your homework and research these companies prior to deciding. Be aware of the fees being charged. Check the Better Business Bureau. We as seniors need to do all we can to protect ourselves.

**TEN COMMANDMENTS.** A Texas law effective September 1, 2025 (SenateBill10), requires public school classrooms to display the Ten Commandments visible, in at least a 16x20 inch, poster or framed copy. The law mandates schools to accept donated, non-copyrighted copies which many districts implemented despite ongoing legal challenges regarding religious freedom and the separation of church and state. Public, elementary and secondary schools must display the Ten Commandments in every classroom. Proponents argue the Ten Commandments are a foundational part of American history and heritage. As of April 2026, the law is in effect, and the display has been implemented in many classrooms across Texas. Information sourced from the Texas Attorney General's Office.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS.** Now that the laws have been passed, there are Public Hearings being held to ensure that these new bills are implemented properly. I point out the Public Hearing set for May 14, 2026.

Here is a snippet from the Public Notice: The House Committee on Elections will meet in a public hearing to hear invited and public testimony on the following interim charges:

**Monitoring, Election Timelines, Election Transparency, and Citizenship and Voting.** We want to maintain the current voting flexibility we enjoy. I'll keep you posted. Thank you.

# Programs

## May 7, 2026 – Rob Landes – Musician



*Rob Landes began studying the piano at the age of three and made his “debut” on the Art Linkletter House Party program at the age of four. This appearance was greeted with great applause and kudos from Mr. Linkletter as well as Tommy Dorsey who was on the same broadcast.*

*A native Houstonian, his playing has taken him from the United States and Canada to Norway and many parts of Europe. **Rob Landes** is widely known as a pianist, organist, harpist, arranger, conductor and published composer. He is associated with six national publishers, including Hinshaw Publishers, Sacred Music Press, Alliance Music and Fred Bock Music. **Rob Landes** recently retired as “Artist in Residence” at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church. However, he still performs at 1894 Galveston Opera House in Galveston, Texas and Berry Center of Northwest Houston. He performed at Alief AARP Chapter 3264 on October 3, 2019 and June 5, 2025.*

## June 4, 2026– Doc Brown – Buffalo Soldiers



*Born in Houston, Texas, Doc served in the United States Air Force, where he guarded aircraft that transported the president of the United States. He was part of the distinguished group of soldiers that escorted President London B Johnson between speaking engagements. He’s currently President of the 9th and 10th Calvary Horse Association of Houston.*

*In retirement, he also enjoys volunteering throughout the state educating various audiences about the famous Buffalo Soldiers.*

## July 2, 2026 – Mary Winstead – Arts & Crafts



*Mary’s beginning as an ‘army brat’ has taken her all over the United States and to other countries. She attended 14 different schools, so it is all together fitting that she spent most of her career managing different programs in 94 schools of El Paso’s ISD.*

*In retirement, she continues to teach at conferences & for senior groups. She volunteers her talents, graciously sharing her hobbies in arts & crafts.*

**TRAVEL**

**Future Dates of Reserved Bus Trips**

May 29, 2026 – Friday – **Paddlewheeler Yellowstone** – Jan Albers - Bus Coordinator



The *YellowStone* is a 72-foot paddlewheeler, an authentic stern wheeler, powered by a Perkins diesel engine which turns the paddle wheel at a leisurely ten miles per hour. She is certified by the U.S. Coast Guard for 35 passengers.

June 5, 2026 – Friday – **Galveston County Museum** – Linda Edwards - Bus Coordinator



*The Galveston County Museum opened in 1976. It was located on Market Street for many years. After Hurricane Ike damaged the Museum in 2008, the unharmed artifacts were moved. Now the museum is located in the Galveston County courthouse building in Galveston. The museum cares for a collection of 20,000 artifacts and archives. The Museum also maintains the historical commission's library.*

*John Rodak, artist, has an exhibit in the Museum and he will lead us on a tour of his pointillist, pen and ink art.*



July 14, 2026\_– Tuesday – **Houston Ship Channel** – Barbara Mireles - Bus Coordinator



*The M/V Sam Houston has been operating as Port Houston’s public tour vessel since its inaugural voyage on July 30, 1958. This free service offers a leisurely, 90-minute round-trip, educational tour along the Houston Ship Channel. Individuals and groups are invited aboard to learn more about the port and maritime industry.*

**2026 Trip Dates - Save the Date**

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Restaurant</u>	<u>Price</u>
Friday	8/7/2026		TBD		
Friday	9/25/2026		TBD		
Thursday	10/8/2026	Valeri Russell	George Ranch	Joe's Café	\$20.00
Tuesday	11/17/2026	Valeri Russell	Moody Gardens	Rainforest Café	\$30.00
Friday	12/11/2026	Jan Albers	Christmas Spectacular		TBD



**May Birthdays**

+	
Shirley Brown	May 9
Iola Williamms	May 14
Beverly Jackson	May 15
Katherine Miller	May 20
Valerie Johnson	May 23
Valeri Russell	May 28

## **Sunshine Chairman**

**Jan Albers** is our **Sunshine Chairman** this year. She will send e-cards, birthday cards, get well cards, thinking of you cards, and sympathy cards to our members.

If you know of any of our members who should receive a card from Alief AARP Chapter 3264, please advise **Jan Albers** at 281-785-7372 or email: [missyjan@comcast.net](mailto:missyjan@comcast.net)

## **Donations – Collections 2026**

We will no longer be collecting food for distribution. There are nearby sites where you can take your donations.

Also, The Board of Directors has voted to resume collecting the following items for donations:

Cell Phones to be refurbished and distributed to Battered Women.

Eye Glasses

Please bring your donations to our monthly General Meetings and give them to **Community Service Chairman Valeri Russell**.

## **Volunteer Hours**

Remember to sign in your volunteer hours at the monthly general meeting. This is one of the most important things we can do each month. Be a “Texas Star”! Let us validate the fact that we are a service organization, not a social organization.

**If you attend the Alief AARP Chapter 3264 monthly meeting, please sign in for the 2-hour service.** If you help a friend, attend an AARP General Meeting, help at your church, help your neighbors, run errands for someone, help at a hospital or anything else where you donate your time, all of your time spent doing for others (including travel time) is considered **volunteer hours**.



Iola Williams, Linda Edwards and Nancy Carter survey the snacks.

**General Information**

Attendance (April 2): 31 Members & 6 Guests

New Members: 1

Total Members: 82

Volunteer Hours for February: 418

**Upcoming Meetings**

May General Meeting

Thursday, May 7, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12 Noon

Location: The Salvation Army Church  
7920 Cook Road, Houston, TX 77072

May Board Meeting

Thursday, May 21, 2026

Time: 10:30 a.m. – 12 Noon

Location: The Salvation Army Church  
7920 Cook Road, Houston, TX 77072

June General Meeting

Thursday, June 4, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m.- 12 Noon

Location: The Salvation Army Church  
7920 Cook Road, Houston, TX 77072



**Officers & Committees 2026****President**

Linda Edwards 713-202-8800

**Vice President**

Doris Hemsworth 281-493-2428

**Treasurer**

Katherine Miller 281-530-7037

**Assistant Treasurer**

Barbara Mireles 316-616-7499

**Secretary**

Austra Runnels 281-686-4319

**Assistant Secretary**

Jean Matthews 713-828-7383

**Three Year Directors**

Brian Placette 713-854-0926

Bunny Trammell 832-845-8742

**Two Year Directors**

Lucy Rosario Cavazos 346-529-8428

Iola Williams 713-822-5398

**One Year Directors**

Nancy Carter 713-825-0456

Valeri Russell 281-923-0349

**Immediate Past President**

Jan Albers 281-785-7372

**Community Service**

Valeri Russell 281-923-0349

**Health**

Lewis Kana 713-882-9714

**Helping Hands – The Board of Directors****Hospitality**

Ethel Kujimiyo 281-731-8638

**Legislative**

Austra Runnels 281-686-4319

**Meals on Wheels**

Willie Mae Wilson 281-536-1991

**Membership/Yearbook**

Jan Albers 281-785-7372

**Nametags**

Jan Albers 281-785-7372

**Newsletter**

Linda Edwards 713-202-8800

**Nominating**

The Board of Directors

**Programs**

Iola Williams 713-822-5398

**Public Relations**

Valeri Russell 281-923-0349

**Raffle**

Nancy Carter 713-825-0456

**Sunshine**

Jan Albers 281-785-7372

**Telephone**

Linda Edwards 713-202-8800

**Travel**

Valerie Johnson 281-785-1943

**Volunteer Hours**

Jan Albers 281-785-7372

**Webmaster**

Brian Placette 713-854-0926

\*\* Committee Chairmen subject to change \*\*