

Seniors' Council of Douglas County
February 5, 2026 Meeting Minutes
Philip S. Miller Building, Conference Rooms A&B
Castle Rock, Colorado

Meeting started: 10:10 a.m.

Meeting ended: 11:30 a.m.

Number of Attendees: 25

Leadership Team Members: Tiffany Curtin, Jean Spahr, Mary Cates, Gretchen Lopez

I. Opening Remarks

- Gretchen welcomed everyone and thanked the county for hosting the meeting.
- Since there were several attendees present for the first time, she gave an overview of the mission of the Seniors' Council of Douglas County and its current affiliation with Aging Resources of Douglas County (ARDC), a local nonprofit.
- Gretchen invited Chip Hunnings, the Communications and Outreach Manager, to share information about ARDC.
- Tiffany Curtin, Literacy Specialist with the Douglas County Libraries (DLC) and SCDC Education Chair provided information about two programs sponsored by DCL:
 1. Coffee Chats from 9 am – 11 am on Tuesdays at all library locations offer an opportunity for lively discussions and community member connections.
 2. Assistance with tax preparation is offered through the libraries; Tax Aide program at the Parker, Highlands Ranch and Castle Rock branches. Appointments can be scheduled on the libraries' website: www.dlc.org.
- Tiffany then introduced our speaker.

II. Presentation: Navigating Social Security Benefits by Ivy Hueston, Public Affairs Specialist

- You must work and contribute to Social Security for at least 40 quarters in order to be eligible for benefits.
- There are several types of social security benefits to include retirement, disability, survivor, supplemental income and dependent benefits.
- The earliest age we can collect Social Security is 62. Be sure to check out the ramifications of this choice before selecting this option.
- We pay into Social Security by contributing a portion of our paychecks according to the Federal Income Contribution Act (FICA).
- Benefit amounts are determined based on the average salary of the top 35 years of employment.
- The Social Security Administration handles enrollment into the Medicare system. This is the only aspect of Medicare it handles.
- Ms. Hueton then fielded questions from the audience.
- For the most current details visit www.ssa.gov.
- Call 800-772-1213 to schedule a phone or office appointment.

III. Closing Remarks

- Gretchen thanked Ms. Hueton for her very informative presentation and the attendees for participating in our meeting.
- She reminded attendees to sign in if they came in late.
- She also invited everyone to join us for our March 5th meeting at the Castle Rock Library when we'll hear about the latest research on Alzheimer's from Bobbie D'Addario, Senior Program Manager with the Alzheimer's Association.