

Blacksburg AARP Board

Minutes/Notes

November 5, 2024

Blacksburg Recreation Center

Attendees: Don Creamer, Terry Wildman, Jerry Niles, Fred Piercy, John Burton, Ben Crawford, Jackie Jones, Pat Ballard, Jamie McReynolds, Wilma Dotson, and Judith Jones.

Co-President Don Creamer called the meeting to **order** at 10:01 AM

The minutes: The October 2024 board meeting minutes were considered and **approved** by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Pat Ballard reported that, after expenses, we generated \$6,989 from the Health & Wellness Fair. This allows us to meet our target of \$3,200 for charity with some \$3,700 carried over. Our current checkbook balance is \$6,700.

Health & Wellness Fair: Jerry Niles said that there was a meeting coming up Thursday with Tammy Caldwell and representatives from the Christiansburg Park and Recreation and the Town of Christiansburg and AARP representatives Jerry Niles, Don, Pat & John Burton. The H&W committee sent out over 100 thank you cards to sponsors and vendors. Pat pointed out the importance of turning in all in-kind contributions in order to be able to reflect the true costs of the Fair.

Volunteer Montgomery Partnership: Don and Jerry met with Mandy Hanes of Volunteer Montgomery. The agency is part of the county budget and provides many, many volunteers. In a partnership, AARP would get volunteers for labor heavy events such as Health and Wellness while Volunteer Montgomery would get to include AARP volunteers in their reporting. A motion to partner with Volunteer Montgomery was made, seconded, and **approved** by voice vote.

Nominees for the Chapter Service and Community Service Awards: Judith Jones announced that the Awards Committee nominated Wendy Baldwin as our Community Service Awardee for her work with the Dolly Parton Imagination Project. The committee nominated Susan Magliaro as the Chapter Service Awardee for her outstanding work on this year's Health & Wellness Fair. It was moved, seconded, and **approved** that these nominees be our 2024 Community Service and Chapter Service Awardees. Judith is pursuing the production of plaques for the awards.

Charitable Contributions/Food Bank: Judith announced that \$3,200 would be distributed to various organizations at our annual luncheon. She further announced that we had collected \$975 at our monthly Membership Meetings (with one to go) for our Food Bank donation. Judith suggested that we round up the amount from our treasury to make it even. Pat said she was on it (she admitted that when in doubt she always wrote a check to make things even). These amounts, the \$3,200 for charity and the closing figure for the Food Bank (plus Pat's magic) were moved, seconded, and **approved**.

Leadership Development Plans: Jerry announced that Susan Baker would like to provide leadership for the Care Committee but, at this time, was not interested in the Board.

Holiday Luncheon Plans: Terry Wildman announced that the Holiday Luncheon would be on December 10 from 11:30 (ish) to 1:00 at Warm Hearth. The menu would be the same as last year (Terry has never been one for imagination): Chicken or veggie lasagna, sides and 3 choices of deserts. The cost of the meal is \$22.00/meal. We charge \$25.00 per person which covers the meals for our guests. A list of the Chapter Accomplishments is being compiled and input requested. It will be part of our Holiday Luncheon presentation. Tina King, Executive Director of NRV Agency on Aging is retiring and will be honored at the Luncheon. Jerry sought input for any and all alternatives to a certificate or plaque since Tina probably has plenty of those. No decision was made.

Location, Date, and Time of the December Board Meeting: Don announced that the December Board Meeting would be at 10:00 on December 10 at Warm Hearth (in the meeting room behind the fireplace) before our Luncheon.

Policy and Pints Discussion Jackie Jones announced that the Policy and Pints Event is scheduled for December 2nd at the Green Goat in Roanoke. There seemed to be some confusion at the State leadership level as to exactly what the purpose and process would be. Jackie will follow up with Jared Calfee and share back to the group.

Vittles for Vets: Ben and John reported on the Veteran's Benefit Fair which they attended in Pulaski last month. The event itself was unremarkable, but they did meet the Director of Operations for Vittles for Vets. The group is a charitable 501c3 that seeks to provide "...healthy and nutritious food through our supplemental grocery gift card program." The group seems to meet at least two of our chapter's priorities: Food security and veterans. The organization is based in Radford and serves the NRV. John will follow up to see if there is a potential for a relationship and perhaps a presentation to the Board by January (Jan) Gerow.

Salvation Army: Ben announced that the Salvation Army is needing volunteers this Christmas Season to "man the kettles" and "ring the bell". Volunteers can set their own hours (between 10:00am-4:00 pm) and bring a chair. Interested parties should call 540-394-3233 or use the Salvation Army on-line system. Judith suggested Volunteer Virginia as a possibility for volunteers.

Committee Reports:

Community Service- Judith announced that the annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Pulaski Veteran's Cemetery will be December 14th at 1:00 (the cemetery opens a 12:30). There are provisions for those with limited mobility. There will be Veteran's Program's on November 10th by the NAACP at Mount Zion Baptist Church at 3:00 pm and one at NRCC on Monday the 11th of November in 117 Edwards Hall.

Newsletter- Fred Piercy announced that the next Newsletter would be in February 2025.

Membership- Wilma Dotson announced that Debra Martin had moved to Maryland and would need to be replaced on the Board.

Liaisons: Jackie announced that the State and Federal Advocacy Programs are looking to merge at least some meetings to build a better relationship.

Don **adjourned** the meeting at 11:12.